

STARS AND STRIPES®

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is done: Lakers
trade Shaq to Heat**

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mourns sailor
who died in fall**

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eyes Ditka for
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Former
Chicago Bears
coach Mark D. Egan

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FRIDAY, JULY 16, 2004

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JEFFREY M. HARRIS
ILLUSTRATIONS BY JEFFREY M. HARRIS
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Rew puts brakes on dangerous driving

Misawa's new commander implements crackdown
to keep relations with community sound Page 3



PHOTOS BY KYODO NEWS/AP

Above: A resident is rescued from an isolated area in Sanjo, northwestern Japan, on Wednesday. Heavy rains and flooding hit northwestern Japan, leaving at least six people dead.

Left: A Japan Self-Defense Forces member carries a resident through a flooded street in Nagaoka, northern Japan, as the residents are transferred from a flooded shelter. At the epicenter of the flooding, in Tochio, 135 miles northwest of Tokyo, 17 inches of rain had fallen in two days.

Northern Japan floods kill 6, displace 20,000

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

U.S. deficit: The government's deficit ballooned to \$326.6 billion in the first nine months of the 2004 budget year, according to a snapshot of U.S. balance sheets released Tuesday in Washington.

That's more than 20 percent larger than the \$269.7 billion shortfall for the corresponding period last year. For the current budget year, which began Oct. 1, this spending has totaled \$1.73 trillion, 6.4 percent more than the same period a year ago. Revenues came to \$1.40 trillion, 3.5 percent more than the previous year.

Consumer spending: America's shoppers had a tight grip on their pocketbooks and wallets in June, dropping sales at the nation's retailers by 1.1 percent. It was the largest decline in 16 months.

The buying retreat, reported Wednesday by the Commerce Department in Washington, came after shoppers had splurged in May. In that month, they pushed merchants' sales up by a strong 1.4 percent, a showing that was better even than first estimated a month ago.

Bad weather and the lingering effects of high energy prices were blamed for the pull-back, economists said.

Anthrax investigation: A bioterrorism expert who was named by government authorities as a "person of interest" in the 2001 anthrax attacks has sued The New York Times, saying the newspaper ruined his reputation by pointing to him as the culprit.

Steven J. Hatfill filed the lawsuit Tuesday in U.S. District Court in Alexandria, Va. He charged that a series of columns by Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Nicholas Kristof was irresponsible by failing to seek, or rejecting, statements of denials from Hatfill.

In several columns in 2002, Kristof faulted the FBI for not actively investigating a suspect he identified as "Mr. Z."

Descriptions of the "Mr. Z." were detailed enough that readers could recognize him as Hatfill and subsequent columns later identified him, the complaint states.

Hatfill also has a lawsuit pending against Attorney General John Ashcroft and other government authorities.

Overtime rules: Disputing Bush administration estimates, a liberal think tank said Wednesday that new federal rules will remove overtime protections for at least 6 million U.S. workers.

The study by the Economic Policy Institute was released a day after three former



Calif. wildfires: David DeFraene, a U.S. Forest Service firefighter, watches helicopters loaded with water Tuesday. Wildfires raged out of control Wednesday in three Southern California counties as crews braced for another day of 100-degree temperatures. About 17,000 acres of brush and forest have burned in Riverside, Los Angeles and San Diego counties. No homes were destroyed but dozens have been evacuated.

Labor Department officials said in a report requested by the AFL-CIO that "large numbers" of employees entitled to overtime would no longer get it when the new rules take effect Aug. 23.

World

USS Cole bombing: Five alleged al-Qaida members accused of plotting the 2000 attack on the American destroyer USS Cole refused Wednesday for a second time to enter pleas, saying at their high-security trial in San'A, Yemen, that they had yet to speak with their lawyers.

The court ordered prosecutors of the bombing that killed 17 U.S. sailors to hand over case files to the defense and give defense lawyers access to their clients.

In October 2000, two suicide bombers brought a small boat alongside the destroyer as it refueled in Aden harbor. The bombers detonated explosives stashed aboard their boat, killing themselves and 17 sailors, and blasting a huge hole in the destroyer's hull.

Flooding in India: An overflowing river spilled into an Indian city of half a million people Wednesday, and overnight landslides in mountainous Nepal killed more

people, bringing the death toll across South Asia from monsoon flooding to at least 326.

Even as large areas remained under water, officials in India worried that too much rain in the country's east could mean a weak monsoon — perhaps a drought — for the country's northern and western breadbasket region, where farmers are still awaiting rains to sow crops.

The most deaths — 197 — have occurred in India since the torrential monsoon rains began in mid-June.

Marcos dictatorship: The Philippine government on Wednesday took steps to seize \$40 million in funds of late dictator Ferdinand Marcos that a U.S. federal judge ordered distributed to thousands of Filipino human rights victims.

Hawaii District Judge Manuel L. Real ordered Tuesday that the funds be transferred from escrow to an account set up by the court in 1995, when a Honolulu jury awarded a class action by 9,539 Filipinos \$2 billion after finding Marcos responsible for summary executions, disappearances and torture during his 14-year martial law rule.

The award has grown to \$3.7 billion with interest, but none of the victims has received any money.

Stories and photo from wire services

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Reveals war on bad driving habits

New 35th Fighter Wing chief also planning more war-like training

BY JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — Less than two weeks before Brig. Gen. Bill Rew took command of the 35th Fighter Wing at Misawa in April, a 19-year-old sailor assigned to the base was involved in a fatal wreck that killed a Japanese national.

Then in May, a 19-year-old sailor collided with a local driver, killing the woman. And it almost happened a third time in June, when a military member from Misawa seriously injured a local woman.

Rew had enough. He swiftly enacted tougher driving penalties, to include:

■ Drivers caught speeding more than 30 kilometers per hour over the posted limit will lose driving privileges for three months.

■ Motorists who receive moving violations, such as speeding tickets, must take a defensive driving course within seven days or fork over their licenses for at least one week or until they have completed the class.

■ Anyone cited for "driving while under the influence" off base must forgo driving for one year.

"I remind everybody that driving here at Misawa is a privilege. It's not a right," Rew said, "and so I'm asking you to do it and will take away driving privileges."

At stake, besides the lives of Japanese and American citizens, is what base leadership has the best military-host nation relationship in Japan.

"What we do here in Misawa is too important to Japan, to the Pacific region, to have bad driving incidents put that relationship in jeopardy," he said.

Rew said the three crashes resulted from negligent driving, a combination of excessive speed and inattention.



Brig. Gen. Bill Rew

Misawa Mayor Shigeohyoshi Suzuki knows that "Americans sometimes have trouble adjusting to the Japanese driving culture," Rew said. "He asks us routinely to make sure our folks are driving slowly."

"If we just slow down, that could solve a large number of our problems."

Rew, who joined the Air Force in 1975, came to Misawa from Shaw Air Force Base, S.C., where he served as director of operations, Headquarters 9th Air Force and U.S. Central Command Air Forces.

This is his second assignment at Misawa.

He's 46 years old and considers Columbia, S.C., to be his hometown.

Though he was quick to implement some tough driving policies, Rew said he "didn't come in with a mandate to fix anything. The wing was in great shape when Gen. [Dana] Atkins gave it to me and I want to keep it in great shape."

The general's focus, as wing and installation commander, is twofold, he said: To ensure that the wing is able to execute its mission and that Misawa Air Base continues to be a fine place to live, work and play.

To the mission, Rew brings real-world experience. "Prior to coming here, I spent a great deal of time in the desert in Southwest Asia — Iraq, Afghanistan, Qatar, various places," he said, looking at how "our" airman are fighting the current war on terrorism.

Rew said he wants the "Wild Weasels" of the 35th Fighter Wing to be the best in the Air Force at their primary mission of destroying surface-to-air missile sites.

But the commander said he's also committed to ensuring all of Misawa's airman from civil engineers to police, are trained to perform their combat mission at home and abroad.

The global war on terrorism has changed the scope of some of these missions, Rew said. "We have airmen doing things now that they weren't doing two years ago in the desert."

For example, a few years ago the Air Force's security forces focused on the defense of bases inside the perimeter, Rew said. "But as we went into Iraq and Afghanistan, and we're working on bases where airman are living with soldiers in a joint en-

vironment, the airman and soldiers are doing more of the security operations outside the wire."

Rew recently authorized using wing funds to help buy a training tool to help Misawa's security forces prepare for this new expeditionary role. They'll shoot modified "bullets" with paint — not a real bullet but not a paint ball, either, they'll feel the rounds hit them, Rew said. It will allow them to train more realistically for convoy escorts, joint patrols and other deployment situations.

"It's something that security forces and police are just starting to do in the States. We're trying to lead the way" in the Pacific Air Forces, he said.

Misawa airman also will be put to the test in exercises with more realistic world combat scenarios, Rew said, noting the base's next Operational Readiness Exercise is scheduled this fall. The commander said he'll have a hand in drawing up the scenarios, some of which will be based on his experience in the desert.

Airmen shouldn't expect more exercises during his tenure, but the focus of such training will change, he said.

"Exercises are always tough. We have to do them, they're painful, we always learn a lot from them and we always get better from them," he said.

This year's budget crunch across Pacific Air Forces poses some challenges, Rew said.

"I've been in the Air Force long enough to know that some years the budget is very strong and others, many conditions get placed, all in the Defense Department. This particular year is a little challenging for us but we're still able to train and operate."

E-mail Jennifer H. Svan at: svan@stripes.com

Kitty Hawk holds memorial service

for sailor who fell from building

BY NANCY MONTGOMERY
AND HANA KUSUMOTO
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — A memorial service for the USS Kitty Hawk sailor who police say apparently fell to his death Saturday from a Yokosuka apartment building was held Wednesday aboard the carrier.

The service for Stephen Hecht, 20, an E-3 fireman who'd been in the service for about three years, was not open to the public.

More than 200 sailors, many from the engineering division where Hecht worked, gathered for prayers, eulogies, Bible readings and the playing of taps, said Lt. Brook DeWalt, Kitty Hawk spokesman. Friends and colleagues also shared their memories of Hecht, who was described as a knowledgeable, hard worker interested in basketball, weightlifting and movies and who also knew how to make people laugh.

"It was a celebration of his life," said Cmdr. Mike Schütz, Kitty Hawk chaplain, "and an opportunity to say goodbye. It allows his shipmates to grieve for him."

Hecht, from Yuba City, Calif., died around 4 p.m. Saturday after apparently falling from a seventh-floor walkway of a downtown Yokosuka apartment building called the Nic Heim Yokosuka

Chuo, near the city's main train station, Yokosuka police said.

Police said Wednesday they have all but ruled out homicide in the death for several reasons. Hecht was alone, according to several witnesses who saw him shortly before he died, and there were no signs of a struggle or conflict.

Police also said witnesses who saw Hecht beforehand, including a man in a barbershop and people in the Nic Heim elevator, said Hecht appeared to be highly intoxicated.

Hecht was seen going alone into the apartment building, police said, although why he did so is unclear. Hecht did not live there and Yokosuka police said they didn't know if Hecht was going to visit a building resident or even whether he knew anyone there.

Police said they have no theory on how Hecht could have fallen from the walkway, which has a 46-inch-high railing. There was a "possibility" that he was climbing on the railing, they said, although no one reported seeing that.

Yokosuka police said they doubted Hecht's death was a suicide because, a spokesman said, "It is unlikely that a person will commit suicide while drunk."

However, studies indicate that about a third of U.S. suicide victims had a substantial level of alcohol in their systems when they

died, according to the National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information.

Naval Criminal Investigative Service investigators are conducting a separate investigation into Hecht's death.

"We don't know what happened yet. Anything else is speculation," DeWalt said. "We need to let the investigation take its course. That's the bottom line."

Yokosuka police said one witness called them to report seeing a man falling from the building but that the witness did not see how it occurred. Police said the call came around 4 p.m. although earlier reports say Hecht fell around 5:30 p.m. Hecht was taken to a local hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

DeWalt said Hecht was pronounced dead at 7 p.m. but it was unclear whether he had died at the scene or at the hospital.

An autopsy was scheduled for Thursday at the base hospital, he said.

Hecht's body will be sent home to California, DeWalt said, escorted by a senior member of Hecht's division on the Kitty Hawk.

Hecht is the first Kitty Hawk sailor to die since November 2001, when a sailor was lost overboard, DeWalt said.

E-mail Nancy Montgomery at: montgomery@stripes.com

E-mail Hana Kusumoto at: kusumoto@stripes.com

Cope Thunder to help

pilots hone war skills

BY VINCE LITTLE
Stars and Stripes

Officials plan to launch Cooperative Cope Thunder this week, the Air Force's largest multilateral air-combat exercise in the Pacific.

The annual drill, which was to begin Thursday and will run through July 30, is being staged at Eielson and Elmendorf Air Force bases in Alaska.

Singapore, Germany, the United Kingdom, Mongolia, Canada, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Australia are among the nations signed up to take part this year.

The Japan Air Self-Defense Force, also headed to the exercise, is deploying F-15s to the United States for just the second time, said Maj. Eric Hilliard, a 5th Air Force spokesman.

The Indian air force is sending its fighter aircraft to Alaska to drill for the first time, he added. That country is set to operate out of Eielson.

About 210 servicemembers from Kadena Air Base, Okinawa, are taking part in the Alaska drill, said Maj. Brenda Campbell, a Cope Thunder spokeswoman based at Elmen-

dorf, with 160 headed to Elmendorf for the F-15 maneuvers and 50 going to Eielson to support KC-135 refueling missions. Yokota Air Base, Japan, is sending a handful of representatives.

Cope Thunder simulates the combat conditions pilots would face in wartime, Hilliard said. At the end of each session, mission evaluators will critique aircrews.

"Each day will end with a debriefing conducted by all the persons involved in the day's flying events," Campbell said. "They are not graded but rather, they note what tactics, techniques and procedures they accomplished well and what others need to be reviewed further."

Cope Thunder gives Air Force units a chance to sharpen air combat skills, exchange air-operational tactics and promote closer relations among participating nations, she added.

More than 1,800 people are attending the exercise, including about 680 U.S. servicemembers.

E-mail Vince Little at: little@stripes.com

Card finds Navy overspending on phone bills

BY LARRY MARGASAK
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — First there were misused Pentagon credit cards. Now come misused phones. Investigators say the Navy routinely paid exorbitant telephone bills, wasted calling plan minutes and couldn't identify who made credit card calls from Norfolk, Va., that in some cases lasted for days.

The Navy's management of phone cards and long-distance plans "creates a fertile environment for fraud, waste and abuse," said the Government Accountability Office, which recently changed its name from the General Accounting Office, in an investigative report.

The phone problems are the latest revelations to concern members of Congress, who already have heard horror stories about Pentagon employees using government credit cards to make personal purchases at a hardware, electronic and lingerie stores, even strip clubs.

The Navy is wasting valuable telephone money while "families are forced to send their sons and daughters deployed around the world calling cards to phone home," said Rep. Jan Schakowsky, D-Ill., who requested the investigation of Navy phone expenses.

That investigation painted a portrait of shoddy management in which Navy superiors didn't even know they were paying for telephone calling cards, and employees on expensive cell phone calling plans weren't using 98 percent of their allowable minutes.

Congressional investigators could not determine whether calling cards were used for personal long-distance conversations, because Navy officials who approved the charges often were unable to identify the callers.

A Navy spokeswoman, Lt. Amy Gilliland, said only, "The Navy will review the final report once it is officially released."

The investigation was limited to a half-dozen facilities, but the GAO said that

was enough to determine the Navy wasn't watching its telephone spending with a critical eye.

For instance:

■ One location paid \$36,000 over three years for long distance services that were no longer needed.

■ In addition to wasting unused minutes, other cellular users cost the Navy \$34,000 by exceeding their allotted monthly minutes.

■ Units paid \$25,700 for late fees and other erroneous charges.

The bill with calls exceeding 24 hours was found at a computer and telecommunications facility in Norfolk.

"These calls included 4-day, 10-day and 12-day phone calls, which all originated from different phone numbers at different times," the report said. "The length of these calls alone should have prompted further investigation but, because the invoice was never properly reviewed, billing errors went unnoticed" until found by investigators.

Looking closely at 10 of the calls, inspectors found, "In 7 of the 10 cases... officials who approved the invoices could neither provide us with an explanation for the length of the calls nor could they provide us with the points of contact for the activities responsible for the calls."

Investigators learned two calls apparently resulted from circuit malfunctions and the Navy has sought refunds from the vendor, the report found.

Shared calling cards were especially vulnerable to potential fraud, the report said. An official on the destroyer USS Mitscher said he gave the same card and personal identification numbers to several officers as needed, but lost track of how many had the information.

On July 6, 2003, users of the card made 189 calls that originated from 12 cities in five states and Canada. The calls went to 12 countries, totaled 55 hours and cost more than \$5,000.

Troops' tabby earns his stripes

The Associated Press

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — Staff Sgt. Rick Boufsfield of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team has a mission: Saving Private Hamner.

Pfc. Hamner is an Iraqi tabby cat the unit adopted after he was born last fall at a baby in Balad, 50 miles north of Baghdad.

When Boufsfield found out his Fort Carson, Colo., unit was leaving Iraq in March, he decided he couldn't leave a member of his team behind.

"He has been through mortar attacks," said Boufsfield, a 19-year Army veteran. "He'd jump and get scared like the rest of us. He is kind of like one of our own."

Pfc. Hamner got his name from the unit that adopted him, Team Hamner. Soldiers would tuck Hamner in their body armor during artillery attacks, and in return, Hamner chased mice in the mess hall.

The kitten earned his rank after nabbing five mice. When Boufsfield learned his unit was going, he sent an e-mail to Alley Cat Allies, a national clearinghouse of information on stray cats, asking for help bringing Hamner along.

Alley Cat Allies raised \$2,500 for Hamner's shots, sterilization, paperwork and a plane ride to the United States. Hamner left Iraq with his unit in March, then flew from Kuwait to San Francisco in cargo. He traveled first class with an Alley Cat Allies volunteer to Denver.

Boufsfield met Hamner at the airport.



THE COLORADO SPRINGS, COLO. GAZETTE/AP

Hamner, a 10-month-old cat who spent the first nine months of his life in Iraq, used to ride in a truck on supply runs with U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Rick Boufsfield, right. When Boufsfield returned home, he brought the cat with him. Sheri Boufsfield is at left, and daughter Tiffany Boufsfield is at center.

Guam seeks U.S. aid for Tingting damage

The Associated Press

HAGATNA, Guam — The government of Guam is seeking at least \$6 million from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for damage inflicted on the territory by Typhoon Tingting late last month.

Gov. Felix P. Camacho already has asked President Bush to declare Guam a major disaster area to expedite federal assistance.

A damage assessment shows about \$4.5 million damage to public

buildings and facilities, and an estimated \$1.5 million in damage to residences and businesses.

Only 57 homes were determined to be destroyed or severely damaged by wind, water and landslides. That number is 116 homes short of the minimum requirement for federal relief funds, but Camacho said he hopes an exception will be granted because of the island's small population.

Tingting passed over Guam from June 26 through June 29,

dumping about 20 inches of rain in just 48 hours. Although Guam did not experience the intense wind damage that other typhoons caused, Tingting did cause flooding and mudslides.

Waiting to see what the government will do is Henry Simpson, who lost the hillside beneath several of his homes along Cross Island Road.

"It's going to be very expensive to fix the problem and I don't know what kind of assistance is going to be available," he said.

Rwandan President Paul Kagame.

Rwanda's military, among the most formidable in central Africa, is largely made up of former rebels who ended the 1994 genocide in Rwanda by ousting a government of extremists from the Hutu majority, which orchestrated the slaughter of more than 500,000 people, mostly

U.S., Japan talk in Calif. on possible troop moves

BY VINCE LITTLE
Stars and Stripes

YOKOTA AIR BASE, Japan — U.S. and Japanese officials are meeting in San Francisco this week on a range of topics tied to the Defense Department's current Global Posture Review, said Air Force Col. Victor Warzinski, a U.S. Forces Japan spokesman.

The two-day session, which was to begin Thursday, is the latest in a series of discussions the two sides have had in the past 18 months, in which they've floated ideas about the potential reorganization and realignment of U.S. forces in Japan.

Warzinski said he doesn't anticipate any decisions to surface at week's end.

"This is a continuing consultation between allies," he said. "There are military aspects to these talks, including force-structure reviews and security policy on both sides of the alliance."

"This is part of the normal way we manage our alliance,"

Warzinski said. The deputy assistant secretary of defense for Asian and Pacific affairs, is leading the U.S. contingent, which includes Brig. Gen. Tim Larsen, the USFJ deputy commander, and officials from the Pentagon and U.S. Pacific Command. Lt. Gen. Thomas Wasow, commander of USFJ and the 5th Air Force, was not scheduled to take part, Warzinski said.

Wasow was unavailable for comment Wednesday; Larsen was en route to San Francisco.

The Pentagon would not comment on the nature of the talks.

"The U.S. and Japan engage in consultations on a regular basis, both as part of normal alliance management and, more recently, as part of U.S. efforts to realign the U.S. global force structure and pos-

tures," said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Flex Plexico on Wednesday.

"It would not be conducive to a frank exchange of views to comment on the content of bilateral discussions," he said.

Yasumasa Nagamine, the deputy director general of the Japan Foreign Ministry's North American Affairs Bureau, planned to attend the meeting, Kyoto News reported last week.

The Japanese news agency also reported that the two countries may discuss shifting U.S. Marines on Okinawa to Camp Fuji in mainland Japan and relocating an Army brigade in Washington state to Camp Zama.

Warzinski declined to address those reports, saying the San Francisco gathering is just another "brainstorming" session designed to solidify the alliance's future.

"You see lots of ideas, but do not mistake those as fact," he said.

"Many ideas are just blatantly wrong. They don't represent any firm policies."

Two objectives are in play at this week's bilateral talks, Warzinski added.

"We want to strengthen and support our relationship," he said. Japan is a cornerstone of northeast Asian regional security and that's something we hope to enhance.

"Secondly, both governments are committed to easing the burden of our presence on Okinawa. How we accomplish that is still a matter for discussion. No decisions have been made."

U.S. officials hope to have proposals ready for presidential review within the next few months, Warzinski said.

Sandra Jontz contributed to this report from the Pentagon.
E-mail Vince Little at: little@stripes.net

U.S., Rwanda to share info

KIGALI, Rwanda — Senior U.S. and Rwandan defense officials on Tuesday signed their first agreement to share intelligence and help train and provide logistical support to Rwanda's military for peace-keeping operations.

Gen. Charles Wald, deputy commander of the U.S. military's European Command for Europe and Africa, signed the agreement with Rwandan Defense Minister Gen. Marcel Gatsinzi during a visit to the small central African nation.

"This is about...normalizing our military relations," Wald said after meeting

minority Tutsis.

In 1998, Rwanda invaded Congo, sparking a five-year war in Congo that drew in the armies of six African countries. The Rwandan accused Congo's leader, Laurent Kabila, of supporting Rwandan insurgents who played a key role in the 1994 genocide.

From The Associated Press

Philippines to withdraw troops from Iraq

Nation moving to meet terrorists' demands, save life of truck driver

BY PAUL ALEXANDER
The Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — The Philippines said Wednesday it was withdrawing its small peacekeeping contingent from Iraq early to save the life of a kidnapped truck driver, a dramatic turnaround by one of Washington's biggest backers in the war on terrorism.

The Southeast Asian country earlier vowed it would not yield to pressure to move up its previously scheduled Aug. 20 withdrawal. Wednesday's announcement was a blow to the U.S.-led international contingent in Iraq, already weakened by Spain's pullout following the deadly terror attacks on Madrid's train system.

U.S. and Australian officials as well as Iraq's new interim government had expressed displeasure that Manila was even considering caving in to the kidnappers' demand.

Captors holding Filipino truck driver Angelo dela Cruz said they would treat him like a prisoner of war if Manila made a good-faith move toward withdrawing early and would free him if the pullout was completed by July 20.

It was unclear when the withdrawal would be finished.

Vice President Noel Di Castro urged national unity at a time of crisis.

"What is important now is the safety of Angelo," he said in a statement. "There is a proper time for debate. Let us give the government enough time and our trust. With your support and unity, we will be able to resolve this problem with dignity as a nation."

Dela Cruz's family, hoping his release was imminent, celebrated with a hearty breakfast of fish and fried chicken in their northern home province of Pampanga.

"We are happy that they are pulling out the troops already in exchange for my brother's freedom," Feliciano dela Cruz said.

Roy Cimatu, Manila's special envoy for the Middle East, said the hostage was reported "alive and well" by Philippine officials.

"There's no risk of execution of Angelo dela Cruz," Cimatu told ABS-CBN television in Baghdad.

Washington had no immediate reaction. U.S. State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said Tuesday a pullout would send "the wrong message" to hostage-takers and that the United States was continuing talks with Philippine authorities.

Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer warned the Philippine government Wednesday that all coalition countries in Iraq would "pay the price" for Manila's decision, according to his spokesman.



Relatives and neighbors cry as they say prayers Tuesday for the safe release of Filipino hostage Angelo dela Cruz in Mexico, northern Philippines. Frantically trying to obtain the release of a captive Filipino truck driver with the clock ticking down, the Philippines plans to withdraw its small peacekeeping force from Iraq.

The Iraqi Islamic Army-Khaled bin Al-Waleed Corps set a withdrawal deadline for the Philippines that expired Tuesday.

But negotiations continued in Iraq through intermediaries.

The insurgents told President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo that dela Cruz, a poor father of eight, had been moved to the place he would be killed if she didn't change her mind.

The crisis put Arroyo squarely between domestic concerns and her previously strong commitment to the United States, the Philippines' former colonial power.

With Islamic and communist terror threats of its own, the Philippines has been relying on Washington to beef up its poorly armed military to battle al-Qaida-linked groups in the restive Muslim south.

There had been concerns that government concessions in Iraq could encourage local Muslim militants, such as the brutal Abu Sayyaf group.

Militants tried to pressure South Korea by kidnapping one of its citizens in Iraq and demanding that Seoul drop plans to deploy 3,000 troops beginning in August. South Korea refused, and the captive was beheaded last month.

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War is proving political problem for U.S., allies

BY SONYA ROSS
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Iraq war is not only a major election-year problem for the Bush administration, it is proving a monumental political pain for America's friends.

The Philippine government Tuesday said it was withdrawing its 51-soldier contingent from Iraq ahead of its scheduled Aug. 20 departure to save the life of a Filipino hostage. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo faced the decision under pressure as a disputed election victory that the opposition still has not conceded while warning of possible mass protests.

Arroyo's foreign undersecretary was in Iraq trying to work out a deal to save hostage Angelo dela Cruz's life.

An early departure from the unpopular war is demanded by the kidnappers would place the Philippines on the road out of Iraq alongside Spain, which left after a pre-election terrorist attack in Madrid.

The former U.S. colony also is bunched as terror targets with

Bulgaria, Egypt, Japan, South Korea, Turkey and the United States, nations whose citizens have been used as bargaining chips by Islamic militants.

Like the others, Arroyo's government has been subjected to high-level U.S. pleading to stick it out, a strategy that Washington employed successfully with the others.

The U.S. administration is none too happy with the Philippine situation.

"Our policy is not to negotiate or provide benefit to terrorists. We think that can send a wrong signal, and that's why we're disappointed to see statements like this," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said Tuesday.

Philippine officials were sensitive to the possibility of national outrage should they fail to secure freedom for dela Cruz, a 46-year-old truck driver and father of eight.

To soften the impact of the Philippine withdrawal on its international standing, the United States praised Australia for deciding to send more soldiers to Iraq and El Salvador for extending its troops' stay by a year.

Analysis

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Blast shakes Baghdad

Car bomb kills at least 10; GI among wounded

BY SAMEER N. YACUB

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A suicide attacker detonated a massive car bomb Wednesday at a checkpoint near the British Embassy and headquarters of the interim Iraqi government, killing at least 10 people and wounding 40, including a U.S. soldier, authorities said.

Later Wednesday, insurgents tossed hand grenades and fired machine guns at a government convoy south of the city of Mosul on Wednesday, killing Gov. Osama Youssef Kashmoula and two of his guards, an Interior Ministry official said.

The attack occurred about 60 miles south of the northern city, Iraq's third largest, as Kashmoula, governor of Nineveh province, was driving to Baghdad.

Also, authorities reported Wednesday that gunmen killed an auditor for the Industry Ministry in a drive-by shooting as he was leaving his office in Baghdad.

The attack on Sabir Karim occurred Tuesday, said Saif Abdel Rahman, a ministry official. He said the second auditor in Iraq's fledgling interim government to be targeted for assassination.

The morning suicide attack outside the main gate of the International Zone was the worst in Baghdad since the United States transferred sovereignty to the interim Iraqi government on June 28.

The explosion shook buildings throughout central Baghdad at 9:15 a.m., when a suicide bomber detonated a car packed with 1,000 pounds of explosives. Many of the civilians were waiting in line to apply for jobs, presumably with the new Iraqi government or multinational forces.

The Iraqi Health Ministry said 10 were killed.

"We were thrown on the ground. Then I saw many dead people on the ground," witness Alaa Hassan said.

Black and gray smoke billowed from the blast site, leaving a car



American and Iraqi soldiers secure the scene of a car bomb Wednesday in Baghdad. A suicide attacker detonated a massive car bomb at a checkpoint near the British Embassy, killing at least 10 people.

ter two yards wide and a yard deep in the road. The charred remains of five cars stood by a protective blast wall that had been damaged. Two other trucks and a car by smoldering nearby.

The blast occurred on a national holiday marking the 46th anniversary of the bloody nationalist coup that killed Iraq's last king, Faisal II.

The wounded soldier was returned to duty later in the day, according to Lt. Col. James Hutton, 1st Cavalry Division spokesman.

Iraqi police and civilian ambulances responded at the scene, Hutton said.

None of the injured was treated at the U.S. military hospital in the International Zone, according to Capt. Jeffrey Greening, 2nd Medical Brigade spokesman.

The International Zone was formerly known as the Green Zone, a heavily guarded compound that houses embassies and a significant number of U.S. military personnel.

U.S. soldiers cordoned off the area, Hutton said, but he did not have any information on other ways the soldiers may have assisted.

Hutton could not say whether the attack was linked to the holiday or if any group had taken responsibility.

Since U.S. military officials can't comment on future operations for security reasons, Hutton couldn't say whether soldiers were bracing for more attacks on

Wednesday or on Saturday and July 30, which also are national holidays commemorating the Baath Party coup of 1968.

"We're already very alert," Hutton said of the soldiers who conduct vehicle and foot patrols and monitor gates to U.S. military camps. "As far as being more alert [in preparation for possible increased violence on the holidays] I wouldn't speculate."

Militants in Iraq said they had killed a captive Bulgarian truck driver and threatened to put another Bulgarian hostage to death in 24 hours, Al-Jazeera television reported Wednesday.

Another group linked to Jordanian militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi said in a video broadcast Wednesday on Al-Jazeera that it had carried out its threat to kill a Bulgarian truck driver it was holding.

Three men with their faces covered by black masks stood over a kneeling soldier, identified by reporters as Georgi Lazov, 30. The video contained the killing but it was not broadcast because it was too graphic, said Al-Jazeera spokesman Jihad Ballout. Al-Jazeera later reported the man's throat was slit.

Bulgaria identified the other hostage as Iraylo Kepov. The two were kidnapped while traveling to Mosul in northern Iraq. They were last heard from June 29.

Stars and Stripes reporter Rick Emert contributed to this report.

E-mail him at: emert@milnet.net

NATO countries not much help in Afghanistan

BY GEORGE GEDDA

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — When NATO took command of the international peacekeeping force in Afghanistan last summer, there were high hopes for multiple payoffs for the alliance.

An effective NATO performance could smooth over the American-European split caused by the Iraq war and, perhaps more importantly, create the security environment the Afghans urgently need to hold national elections.

Now, almost a year since NATO took on the task, there is widespread disillusionment with its performance, contributing to doubts about Afghanistan's future stability.

While accusing NATO of dithering, officials in President Bush's administration say the allies still have time to help ensure a successful Afghan presidential election in October.

Parliamentary elections, due to have been held simultaneously, have been put off until spring.

John Hulsman, a European analyst at the conservative Heritage Foundation in Washington, says halfhearted allied efforts in Afghanistan are deepening American suspicions about NATO's utility.

"Our interests are not the same. We have to stop pretending they are," he says.

Officially, the alliance takes a different view. A communique issued at the NATO summit in Turkey two weeks ago said, "Contributing to peace

and stability in Afghanistan is NATO's key priority.

"NATO's leadership of the U.N.-mandated International Security Assistance Force demonstrates the readiness of the North Atlantic Council to decide to launch operations to ensure our common security."

Charles Kupchan of the Council on Foreign Relations in New York says NATO's commitment in Afghanistan has yielded little thus far.

While helping to stabilize Kabul, he says, "most of rest of country is the wild, wild west, including the south and east."

Bush administration officials say such comments fail to recognize that the deployment to Afghanistan is a bold departure for an alliance that had never ventured beyond Europe's borders.

Afghan President Hamid Karzai made warlord disarmament a top priority earlier this year but has made almost no headway.

At the Istanbul summit two weeks ago, Karzai implored the Europeans to take Afghanistan more seriously.

"Please hurry," he said. "Provide the Afghan men and women with a chance to vote freely without fear, without coercion."

NATO has agreed to branch out beyond Kabul, the capital, to the west and north of Afghanistan, setting up civilian-military teams designed to help the Karzai government extend its authority and to create a secure environment, among other goals.

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USS Kitty Hawk group may be heading home

U.S., Iraqis gather plan government

U.S. troops in Baghdad neighborhood

"In our hands"

U.S. return delayed for once-missing Marine

Hassoun released from hospital, but mechanical problems set back flight

BY MARNI MCENTEE

Stars and Stripes

KAISERSLAUTERN, Germany — A U.S. Marine seen on television as being held hostage by militants in Iraq before he turned up in Lebanon has been released from a military hospital in Germany.

Cpl. Wassef Ali Hassoun spent four days at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, undergoing what military physicians called repatriation and debriefing.

He was bound for Marine Corps Base Quantico in Virginia, where he would continue the repatriation process, Marine Corps spokesman Capt. Dan McSweeney said Wednesday.

"The main thing is to ensure his mental and physical well-being and allow him to continue to decompress," McSweeney said.

Hassoun was scheduled to leave Ramstein Air Base on Wednesday afternoon in a C-5 Galaxy, but mechanical problems delayed the flight by at least a day, officials said.

When he travels, he'll be accompanied by a Landstuhl psychologist and a Marine Corps public affairs officer, hospital spokeswoman Marie Shaw said. They were to fly to Dover, Del.

Depending on weather, he'll either take a flight to Quantico or make the roughly 135-mile trip in a van or car, said Corps spokesman Capt. Jeffrey Landis.

Originally, the Corps plan to return Hassoun to his home base of Camp Lejeune, N.C.

But Quantico puts him closer to intelligence officials, investigators and the health officials at the National Naval Medical Center in Bethesda, Md., officials said.



Cpl. Wassef Ali Hassoun

Depending on the availability of rooms, officials at Quantico want to house Hassoun in the Bachelor Officer Quarters, where there is more living space, and is closer to the main gate and facilities at Quantico. If there is no room, he'll be housed in the enlisted quarters, Landis said.

Hassoun, 24, arrived at the Landstuhl hospital late Friday night, exhausted but in good health. He had lost 20 pounds and hadn't slept more than a few hours a night for three weeks, hospital physicians said.

The Marine disappeared June 20 from a camp near Fallujah, Iraq, where he worked as a truck driver and translator for the 2nd

Hassoun's statement

Marine Cpl. Wassef Ali Hassoun issued this written statement before leaving Landstuhl Regional Medical Center on Wednesday:

"I am happy to have completed this phase of my repatriation. The people here at Landstuhl Regional Medical Center have treated me very well, but I am excited to be going home. All thanks and praise are due to God for my safety. I'm also very thankful for all the kind wishes, support and prayers for me and my family from my fellow Marines, all the people in the U.S., Lebanon, and around the world. I am in good health and spirits. I look forward to my return home to friends and family. Semper fidelis."

Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, based at Camp Lejeune.

He was seen on Arab television June 27, blindfolded with someone holding a sword above his head. Conflicting reports of his capture and possible murder had

circulated for days before Hassoun arrived July 8 in Lebanon, where his family lives. He met with U.S. Embassy officials in Beirut before the military flew him to Germany.

Initially, the military listed Hassoun as a deserter but then changed that to "captured," after the videotape was aired.

McSweeney said the military's Joint Personnel Recovery Agency, which specializes in treating people who have been held captive, recommended continuing the repatriation process. Until that is complete, no investigation into the "missing persons inquiry" would continue, McSweeney said. The Naval Criminal Investigative Service will pursue that inquiry, he said.

Hassoun has not yet been questioned by the NCIS and will not be confined while at Quantico, McSweeney said.

Shaw, the Landstuhl spokeswoman, said the third repatriation phase is meant to continue to ease Hassoun back into normal life.

"I saw him this morning," Shaw said. "He was in uniform. He was smiling more than he was before. He was a lot more relaxed because he had slept and eaten well."

Stripes reporter Sandra Jontz contributed to this report from the Pentagon. E-mail: Marni.McEntee@mcintee.com

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IN THE STATES

Ameendment banning gay marriage fails

Senate supporters vow to continue fight

BY DAVID ESPO
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Senate dealt an election-year defeat Wednesday to a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage, rejecting pleas from President Bush and fellow conservatives that the measure was needed to safeguard an institution that has flourished for thousands of years.

The vote was 48-50, 12 short of the 60 needed to keep the measure alive. Six Republicans joined dozens of Democrats in siding with the amendment's opponents.

"I would argue that the future of our country hangs in the balance because the future of marriage hangs in the balance," said Sen. Rick Santorum, a leader in the fight to approve the measure.

"Isn't that the ultimate homeland security, standing up and defending marriage?"

But Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle said there was no "urgent need" to amend the Constitution. "Marriage is a sacred union between men and women. That is what the vast majority of Americans believe. It's what virtually all South Dakotans believe. It's what I believe."

"In South Dakota, we've never had a single same-sex marriage and we won't have

any," he said. "It's prohibited by South Dakota law as it is now in 38 other states. There is no confusion. There is no ambiguity."

Supporters conceded in advance they would fail to win the support needed to advance the measure, and vowed to renew their efforts.

"I don't think it's going away after this vote," Sen. Jeff Sessions, R-Ala., said Tuesday on the eve of the test vote. "I think the issue will remain alive," he added.

Whatever its future in Congress, there also were signs that supporters of the amendment intended to use it in the campaign already unfolding.

The institution of marriage is under fire from extremist groups in Washington, politicians, even judges who have made it clear that they are willing to run over any state law defining marriage," Republican senatorial candidate John Thune says in a radio commercial airing in South Dakota. "They have done it in Massachusetts and they can do it here," adds Thune, who is challenging Daschle for his seat.

"Thune's ad suggests that some are using this amendment to protect the Republican majority than to protect marriage," said Dan Pfeiffer, a spokesman for Daschle's campaign.



Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., left, watches as singer Pat Boone speaks in support of the amendment to ban gay marriage during a news conference Tuesday in Washington.

At issue was an amendment providing that marriage within the United States "shall consist only of a man and a woman."

A second sentence said that neither the federal nor any state constitution "shall be construed to require that marriage or the legal incidents thereof be conferred upon any union other than the union of a man

and a woman." Some critics argue that the effect of that provision would be to ban civil unions, and its inclusion in the amendment complicated efforts by GOP leaders to gain support from wavering Republicans.

Bush urged the Republican-controlled Congress last February to approve a constitutional amendment, saying it was needed to stop judges from changing the definition of the "most enduring human institution."

Bush's fall rival, Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts, opposes the amendment, as does his vice presidential running mate, Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina. Both men skipped the vote.

In all, 45 Republicans and three Democrats voted to keep the measure alive. Six Republicans joined 43 Democrats and one independent in opposition.

The odds have never favored passage in the current Congress, in part because many Democrats oppose it, but also because numerous conservatives are hesitant to overrule state prerogatives on the issue.

At the same time, Republican strategists contend the issue could present a difficult political choice to Democrats, who could be pulled in one direction by polls showing that a majority of voters oppose gay marriage, and pulled in the other by homosexual voters and social liberals who support it. An Associated Press opinion poll released in March showed about four in 10 support a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage, and half oppose it.

Illinois GOP asks Ditka to be Senate candidate

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — In a "Hail Mary" pass by the state GOP, the party chairman met with former Chicago Bears coach Mike Ditka about a possible run for the U.S. Senate.

Illinois Republicans are scrambling to find a replacement candidate with less than four months left until the November election.

Jack Ryan dropped out nearly three weeks ago over embarrassing allegations in his divorce papers that he took his wife, "Boston Public" actress Jeri Ryan, to sex clubs before they split up.

The party's top choices have refused to run.

A number of Republican lead-

ers in both Illinois and Washington said Tuesday that Ditka's name recognition, regular-guy appeal and analytical game-planning skills would make him a viable candidate to challenge state Sen. Barack Obama.

"The public is really tired of the slick politicians, they're tired of sound bites, they're tired of trial lawyers running government. To have this decent, regular-guy, a regular guy, run, I think is something that the public would overwhelmingly embrace," said State Sen. Dave Syverson, a member of the Republican State Central Committee.

Ditka, 64, said he had not decided on a run after meeting Tues-



Mike Ditka

day night with Illinois Republican Party chairman and state treasurer Judy Baar Topinka at his Chicago restaurant.

He said it is an exciting idea but he has not made up his mind.

Ashcroft details Patriot Act's role in terror war

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department on Tuesday gave Congress nearly three dozen examples of how the Patriot Act has been used to prosecute terrorists and other criminals, part of an administration effort to counter criticism that the law does more to harm civil liberties than to protect the nation.

Attorney General John Ashcroft presented a 29-page report outlining the examples to members of the House Judiciary Committee, telling reporters after the private briefing that the report provided "a mountain of evidence" of the law's benefits.

"The Patriot Act is al-Qaida's worst nightmare when it comes to disrupting and disabling their operations here in America," he said.

Rep. John Conyers of Michigan, ranking Democrat on the Judiciary Committee, accused the department of selectively releasing information and refusing to address civil liberties concerns.

The report says between the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and May 5, Justice Department terrorism investigations led to the arrest of almost 310 people, of whom 110 were convicted or pleaded guilty. The Patriot Act, it says, was instrumental in many of these cases.

The report provides 35 examples of how the law was used to prosecute alleged terror cells in New York, Oregon, Virginia and elsewhere; how it updated law enforcement tools to track such technology as cell phones and Internet communications; and how many of its provisions are used for other criminal probes including child pornography, computer hacking, kidnapping and illegal weapons sales.

Anthony Romero, executive director of the American Civil Liberties Union, said he considered the report a political document rather than a serious examination of the Patriot Act's impact. The Bush administration, he said, should "spend less time waging public relations campaigns and more time responding to the specific, legitimate concerns of the American people."

States receiving poison antidotes

CDC preps for chemical attacks

BY LAURAN NEERGAARD
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — States are beginning to receive long-awaited federal shipments of antidotes against chemical weapons, under a program that aims to have stocks in every state within two years.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention began quietly shipping the so-called chem-

Pharmaceutical Stockpile contains tons of drugs, vaccines and other medical supplies in storage around the country, so that any U.S. city can receive a needed shipment within 12 hours.

That may be enough time to react to an incubating infection like anthrax, but the ability to survive a chemical attack depends on immediate decontamination and rapid administration of appropriate antidotes.

The ability to survive a chemical attack depends on immediate decontamination and rapid administration of appropriate antidotes.

Yet those antidotes are expensive and have short shelf-lives.

The CDC began shipping the chem-packs four months ago.

The packs come with a variety of chemical antidotes, such as atropine to fight nerve agents. Some are in auto-injectors for at-track-site use; others are packaged for emergency use.

For security reasons, CDC officials wouldn't say which states had received chem-packs so far.

The CDC invested \$56 million last year in creating the chem-packs and has budgeted about \$34 million this year as the distribution begins, officials said.

Voting machine critics seeking paper trail

BY TOM STUCKEY
The Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. — A coalition of activists around the nation held rallies in state capitals to publicize their fears about paperless voting systems.

In Maryland, more than 100 activists demonstrated Tuesday outside the State House demanding that voting machines be equipped with printers before the November election.

Participants in the "Computer Ate My Vote" campaign said paperless voting systems are poorly programmed and prone to hackers, fraud and software bugs.

VerifiedVoting.org, which organized the campaign, said rallies were held in 19 states.

"We want a paper trail now, this November," Linda Schade, of TrueVoteMD.org, said at the Annapolis rally.

Donna Duncan, manager of the election management division for the State Election Board, said the machines used in Maryland have undergone more security testing than any other election system in the country.

In Tallahassee, Fla., about 20 activists rallied outside the state Capitol and delivered about 20,000 petitions to the Division of Elections.

"Computers don't work very well," said Tom Baxter, one of the rally organizers. "If you want to have something you can count, you need paper."

Florida officials insist touchscreens are far more accurate than older voting systems — such as the state's retired and much-maligned punch card system.

In Utah, about 50 people gathered on the steps of the Utah Capitol to ask the Voting Equipment Selection Committee to expand its search for balloting options.

A federal law enacted after the 2000 Florida election fiasco provides billions of dollars in funding for electronic machines.

Utah is among a handful of states that still use a mostly punch card-based system.

Barbara Simmons, a former president of the Association for Computing Machinery, told protesters that officials should look on electronic balloting until more accurate machines are available.

"If I had a single message ... that message would be 'Wait,'" she said. "There's better technology on the way."

"We are unified in our desire to protect and defend our voting system," Madeleine Hervey, of Common Cause, said at the rally in Austin, Texas.

Associated Press writers Travis Reed in Salt Lake City and David Royle Talbot in Florida, and Jim Vertuno in Austin, Texas, contributed to this report.

Bread booms for some as low-carb customers turning to whole grains

BY TIM MCCAHL
The Associated Press

DUXBURY, Vt. — Randy George has a phrase to describe the bread he bakes: "enjoyable carbohydrates."

"The food is good — I really do believe that," said George, his work clothes covered with a thin dusting of flour. "We do all need a certain amount of carbs."

George's company, Red Hen Baking, makes "artisan breads," hearty, crusty loaves baked without additives or preservatives. And in this era of all things low-carb, George and other artisan bakers say business is prospering as customers shun refined breads for the

organic, whole-grain flour and local ingredients used in their handmade varieties.

"They've taken the time to educate customers on what it is they are actually buying when they're buying artisan products," said Gina Piccolino, executive director of the Bread Bakers Guild of America. "Be educated — don't just get caught up in a fad diet."

Piccolino backed up her claim with a recent survey of the guild, which boasts 1,300 members from home bakers to suppliers.

The guild surveyed its 260 artisan bakeries last year, and 78 percent of the 202 who responded said sales remained level or

grew from 2002 to 2003. In the same poll, 92 percent said sales of partial or fully whole-grain breads and pastries stayed the same or grew during the same period.

The numbers reveal buyers' preference for "wholesome breads crafted by the hand of the baker, not the machine," Piccolino said.

"Multigrain, whole-grain, whole-wheat kinds of products are good for you," she said.

"The product is so different than what used to be available," said Chuck Conway, 54, owner of bakery O'Bread, referring to the refined breads that once dominated the supermarket aisle. "People try it and like it."

Escaped tiger killed by Florida wildlife officers

BY JILL BARTON
The Associated Press

LOXAHATCHEE, Fla. — The owner of an escaped tiger fatally shot by wildlife officers said Wednesday that he believes someone opened several gates, enabling the big cat to get out.

Steve Sipek, an actor who once played Tarzan, said the gates would have had to be opened before the 6-year-old tiger, named Bobo, could have reached the 12-foot wall around his property.

"He was let out by somebody who is interested in causing problems," Sipek told CBS' "The Early Show." Sipek has another tiger, a panther, a cougar and lions on his five-acre compound which is marked by a sign that reads, "Trespassers will be eaten." They did not escape.

Willie Piz, a spokesman for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, said Wednesday that Sipek's claim was being investigated. He said Sipek has licenses for the big cats, but he said he could not comment on whether they could now be revoked because that is part of the investigation.

Bobo was shot and killed Tuesday when officials say it lunged at a wildlife officer who was trying to capture it.

But Sipek, who developed a soft spot for jungle beasts after playing Tarzan in B-movies decades ago, said he doubted the tiger had to be killed. He said he would have been able to coax the tiger to safety if officers had called him to the scene before shooting it.

"Murder is the word," Sipek said. "They murdered a poor helpless animal that only looked ferocious, as any tiger would, but Bobo had a heart of gold."

A dozen wildlife trackers and sheriff's deputies had searched more than 24 hours for the animal, which escaped Monday. They had kept watch Tuesday in a five-acre area of dense slash pines and palm trees.

Officers approached the tiger intending to shoot it with tranquilizers. But the tiger jumped at one officer, who fired a shotgun in self-defense, said Jorge Pina, a wildlife commission spokesman.

"Needless to say, the owner is very distraught. We're distraught," Pina said. "Our concern was to recover this tiger alive and well."



LEE ANN LEWIS VIA THE PALM BEACH POST/AP

Bobo the tiger in an undated photo. The 6-year-old tiger, owned by Steve Sipek, escaped from Sipek's compound Monday in Loxahatchee, Fla. Wildlife officers caught up with Bobo on Tuesday, killing the tiger when it reportedly lunged at an officer.

He told ABC's "Good Morning America" on Wednesday that wildlife officials had told him they wouldn't try to capture Bobo until later Tuesday evening, so he went to take a shower. He said he was coming back to rejoin the search when he heard five shots and "my heart sank."

Some nearby residents, who moved to the rural area so they could have room for their own pets, had little sympathy for Sipek, saying his big cats are dangerous.

"What I want to know is when he was in captivity, how long did he go without a feeding?" said Kim Smith, who has horses and dogs that she normally keeps outside.

"Tigers are predatory. All of us moved out here because we're city people wanting a taste of the country. But this is a little funky."

Wildlife officials had said they did not believe the declawed pet would attack. He was never taught to hunt, and had never killed anything or lived in the wild. However, he did bite a woman working inside his cage two years ago, severely injuring her.

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IN THE WORLD

...Extra AIDS funding is 'not going to happen'

BY VIJAY JOSHI
The Associated Press

BANGKOK, Thailand — The United States on Wednesday rejected a call at the International AIDS Conference for a \$1 billion contribution next year to the global fund that has become the centerpiece of U.N. efforts against the disease.

"It's not going to happen," U.S. AIDS coordinator Randall Tobias said in an interview, noting that Washington already is by far the world's largest donor to the cause.

Tobias' comments were in response to a request Tuesday by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who said he hoped the United States would give \$1 billion for 2005 alone to the Global Fund, which is far short of its \$3.6 billion budget.

The United States is carrying out a \$1.5 billion, five-year Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, mainly directed toward 14 countries in Africa and the Caribbean, plus Vietnam. Critics say the United States should instead give much of that money to the Global Fund, which finances 128 countries.

They also say the U.S. money comes with strings attached that can set back efforts to curb the spread of HIV — which infected 5 million people last year alone — and that the U.N.-sponsored fund best suits the needs of sufferers.

The U.S. money goes to countries that support Bush's abstinence-first policy, and it currently can buy only brand-name drugs, usually American, shutting out cheaper generic versions made by developing countries.

Tobias urged detractors to stop arguing with Washington over condoms and drug patents and join its war on the pandemic, which has claimed 20 million lives and left another 38 million infected worldwide since 1986, most of them in Africa.

There has been furious criticism at the AIDS conference of U.S. policies such as its insistence on abstinence — rather than condoms — as a primary way of battling HIV, its trade policies; and its funding methods. The conference is the biggest gathering ever of AIDS scientists, activists, policy-makers and HIV-infected people.

Critics say a vow of abstinence is difficult to maintain and, when broken, can lead to unprotected sex, raising the risk of HIV infection that could effectively be blocked by a condom.

Protesters were jeered by protesters chanting, "He's lying! People dying!" when he was about to defend U.S. policies in a speech on Tuesday.

Stephen Lewis, the United Nations' special envoy on HIV/AIDS to Africa, said he disagreed "profoundly" and "Dr. Zeda Rosenberg, chief executive of International Partnership for Microbicides.

Protection for women one key to halting HIV

BANGKOK, Thailand — The global fight against HIV will fail without serious progress in addressing the plight of women in the developing world, including ways that can protect themselves from infection without their partners' knowing, advocates say.

Nearly half of all people living with HIV now are women, and their infection rates in many regions are climbing much faster than men's, experts say.

Health specialists, scientists and community activists at the international AIDS conference focused their attention Wednesday on the impact that human-dignity's worst scourge is having on women. Across the world, 17 million women are infected.

With vaccines considered a long way off and with many cultures denying women the power and confidence to demand that partners wear condoms — regarded as the key prevention tool — scientists are addressing ways women can protect themselves.

The biggest buzz among researchers at the conference is surrounding anti-AIDS vaginal products, known as microbicides.

The concept dates from the late 1980s, but is being pushed seriously only now, with the official AIDS conference agenda featuring a session on microbicides for the first time.

Scientists hope that within five years, the first batch of broad-spectrum, HIV-killing vaginal products could be available.

While they are no substitute for condoms, they could profoundly affect how well the world's most vulnerable women can fight HIV even if the products turn out to be no more than 30 percent effective, said Dr. Zeda Rosenberg, chief executive of International Partnership for Microbicides.

— The Associated Press



KYODO NEWS/AP

Rescuers continue operations through a flooded street in Sanjo, northwest Japan, on Wednesday. Heavy rains and flooding in northwest Japan killed at least six people and prompted evacuations.

At least 6 dead in Japan floods

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Torrential rains and flooding in northern Japan killed at least six people, injured several more and forced nearly 20,000 others to evacuate to higher ground, officials said Wednesday. Four people were missing.

At the epicenter of the flooding, in Tochigi, 135 miles northwest of Tokyo, 17 inches of rain had fallen in two days.

Authorities broadened an evacuation order to 19,788 households late Wednesday, mostly in the city of Sanjo, north of Tochio.

Some 22,300 homes had been flooded, including 14,760 in Sanjo, where the fast-flowing waters of the Ikarashi River broke through a stone-and-dirt embankment in several areas. Dozens of schools were closed.

The Self-Defense Forces dis-

patched 300 troops to help with rescue and cleanup, while military helicopters airlifted about 451 people from the rooftops of homes and schools, public broadcaster NHK reported.

More than 4,000 homes were still without power as of late Wednesday, and many were without telephone service after underground connections were severed, said Tohoku Electric Power Co. spokesman Junji Ishiguro.

Officials said an estimate of the flooding damage hadn't been tallied yet.

While rain had let up in some places, more was forecast for Thursday.

The dead included four women in their 70s, a man in his 70s and one in his 80s, Fire and Disaster Management Agency spokesman Koki Sasaki said.

Sasaki said four others were missing.

Iraq probe finds Blair did not lie

BY JILL LAWLESS
The Associated Press

LONDON — British Prime Minister Tony Blair on Wednesday escaped the worst from an official inquiry into prewar intelligence on Iraq, which criticized his government for informal decision-making and pushing available intelligence to the limit — but found no deliberate distortions by intelligence agencies or officials eager to justify war plans.

The commission headed by Lord Butler found prewar Iraq had no usable stockpiles of chemical and biological weapons and that British intelligence was flawed, unreliable and incomplete. But while criticizing Blair's "informal" governing style, it absolved him of misleading the public over Iraq, a charge that has dogged him since he took Britain into the divisive U.S.-led war.

Blair said it proved that "no one lied, no one made up the intelligence."

The verdict takes some pressure off Blair, whose popularity and credibility have been battered by the war and continuing violence in Iraq, and by his failure to find any weapons of mass destruction. His Labor Party faded poorly in recent local and European parliamentary elections, and there have been rumblings within the party calling for his ouster.

Blair's fate has wide symbolic and political ramifications. Months after a pro-war government was voted out in Spain, and with President Bush — Blair's chief ally — facing a difficult re-election campaign.

"We have no reason, found no evidence, to question the prime minister's good faith," said Butler, a retired senior civil servant. Butler concluded "no single individual" was responsible for intelligence failures that led Blair's government to overstate the threat posed by Saddam.

The report concluded that Saddam "did not have significant, if any — stocks of chemical or biological weapons in a state fit for deployment, or developed plans for their use."

The five-member committee, which interviewed Blair, senior Cabinet figures and key intelligence officials, said it was not to blame for the chasm between that conclusion and claims made before the war — including one that Iraq could deploy some chemical and biological weapons on 45 minutes' notice.

Israeli plan rejects Arafat burial in Jerusalem

The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — After Yasser Arafat's death, Israel must ensure he is not buried in Jerusalem and take harsh measures to prevent militants from seizing control in the Palestinian territories, according to a new contingency plan obtained Wednesday by The Associated Press.

The document lays out Israel's best predictions about the conse-

quences that may follow the death of the 75-year-old Palestinian leader.

Arafat, who has suffered from health problems in recent years, wields enormous power and has said little about who might succeed him — or where he should be buried.

The contingency plan forecasts chaos in the Palestinian territories. It says Arafat's Palestinian Authority will collapse and Islam-

ic groups, led by Hamas, could rise up out of the refugee camps where they have strong support and try to take control of the Palestinian government.

Israel must take extreme measures to prevent this scenario, including a broad military operation in the Gaza Strip, according to the document.

The document, prepared by the Foreign Ministry, is part of regular planning for Arafat's death.

Koizumi says Jenkins should come to Japan 'as soon as possible'

BY KOZO MIZOGUCHI

The Associated Press

TOKYO — Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi said Wednesday that he wants to bring an accused U.S. Army deserter to Japan for medical treatment "as soon as possible" and will continue to press the United States not to prosecute the former American soldier.

The Japanese government has been waiting for the results of medical tests on Charles Jenkins conducted Tuesday in Jakarta, Indonesia, before deciding whether to bring him to Japan for treatment of an unspecified ailment. Jenkins — who has lived in North Korea since allegedly abandoning his Army unit in 1965 — is in Jakarta

for a reunion with his Japanese wife, Hitomi Soga.

Koizumi said doctors who examined Jenkins had recommended that the 64-year-old American receive treatment in Japan soon.

"It would be best for him to come to Japan as soon as possible," Koizumi told reporters Wednesday.

But the Japanese leader acknowledged the difficulties of persuading Washington, Tokyo's closest ally, not to charge Jenkins with desertion. Because of a bilateral pact, Tokyo would be hard pressed to resist a U.S. request for custody of Jenkins once he is in Japan.

"We have to find a solution that



Japanese journalists wait in the hotel lobby Tuesday where alleged U.S. Army deserter Charles Robert Jenkins and his family are staying in Jakarta, Indonesia.

will satisfy both countries," Koizumi said.

The Japanese media have speculated that Jenkins could come to Japan as soon as next week. Kyodo News service, citing unidentified Japanese officials, reported Wednesday that Jenkins is now willing to travel to Japan, despite fears that the United States will seek his extradition.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Hiroyuki Hosoda said earlier Wednesday that Tokyo hadn't yet made any formal requests to Washington.



Jenkins



Koizumi

Japan court backs school board, tells teachers to sing

BY BRUCE WALLACE

Los Angeles Times

TOKYO — Soft-spoken high school teacher Hiroshi Saito says his refusal to stand and sing Japan's national anthem at this spring's graduation ceremonies was intended as "a final lesson" to his departing students, "an unspoken message that the freedom of speech is constitutionally guaranteed." But other eyes were on him while he sat out the song.

Saito's convictions collided with a new Tokyo school board directive requiring teachers to stand as an example to students by leading the singing of Kimigayo, the anthem or face punishment. And the board sent officials into schools to monitor who among the teachers was singing and who was not.

By the end of June, more than 200 teachers — 35-year-old Saito among them — had been reprimanded for failing to join in the five-line, two-verse anthem. Many saw scheduled pay raises postponed for three months.

Last week, the teachers were dealt another blow when the Tokyo High Court ruled that the city's school board had a right to discipline teachers who refused to comply with the directive.

To many Japanese, this is the same sort of coerced patriotism that herded a previous generation into war and disaster.

There is some indication the public sides with the teachers on at least their right to choose whether to join in singing or stay seated.

A poll done for a Tokyo newspaper and released Thursday found more than 70 percent of respondents were opposed to the school board's directive. Among people under 30, barely 10 percent agreed with the board's policy.

But lawyers for the teachers acknowledge the High Court ruling might throw a legal damper on their best chance to overturn the directive. Two other lawsuits are before the courts, including a class-action suit filed last month by 350 Tokyo teachers, which accuses the board of denying constitutionally guaranteed rights to freedom of speech, conscience and religion.

The confrontation between teachers and administrators is in part a front in the perennial struggle over who runs the schools. Teachers don't like to be ordered by the authorities, said Hiroshi Oyama, lead lawyer in the class action suit.

Arab news station issues code of ethics

The Associated Press

DOHA, Qatar — The popular Arab news channel Al-Jazeera, which the United States has accused of bias, has issued a code of ethics, vowing to "uphold journalistic values" and to be sensitive to the victims of the wars and disasters it covers.

The code, included in a statement at the end of a two-day international media forum that concluded Tuesday, said the station will "strive to reach and deliver the truth, respect our audience."

Al-Jazeera often has been criticized for its coverage of the war on Iraq, especially by the United States.

The statement pledged to "take into account the feelings of the victims of crime, wars, oppression and disasters, and the feel-

ings of their families and the viewers."

Al-Jazeera also has been accused of being an outlet for al-Qaida terror network, broadcasting videotapes and audiotapes purportedly from Osama bin Laden on his aides.

The station said it will distinguish between news, analysis and commentary to avoid "falling in the trap of propaganda and speculation."

It also promised to "acknowledge any mistake as soon as it is made and take the initiative to correct it and avoid repeating it."

Recently, Al-Jazeera has begun reading statements from militant groups instead of broadcasting their tapes, an attempt to limit rhetoric. It also has been editing out particularly graphic segments of militant videotapes.

'Merlin' in court for shopping with sword

PORTSMOUTH, England — Merlin appeared in court Tuesday, resplendent in his druid robes and defended by King Arthur Pendragon, but without the meter-long (3-foot) sword that caused alarm in a local shop.

Merlin Michael Williams, 26, of Westbourne, England, was arrested last week after carrying his self-cast weapon while shopping at a store in Portsmouth. The sword was confiscated as evidence.

Williams presented himself at Portsmouth Magistrates draped in a green robe and blue cloak.

The case was adjourned for a month to give prosecutor Colin Shackel time to examine precedents.

"It is accepted by the crown this was sheathed and there was no offensive action by the defendant," Shackel said. "The issue is whether this is an offensive weapon per se."

Williams remained free on bail.

From wire reports



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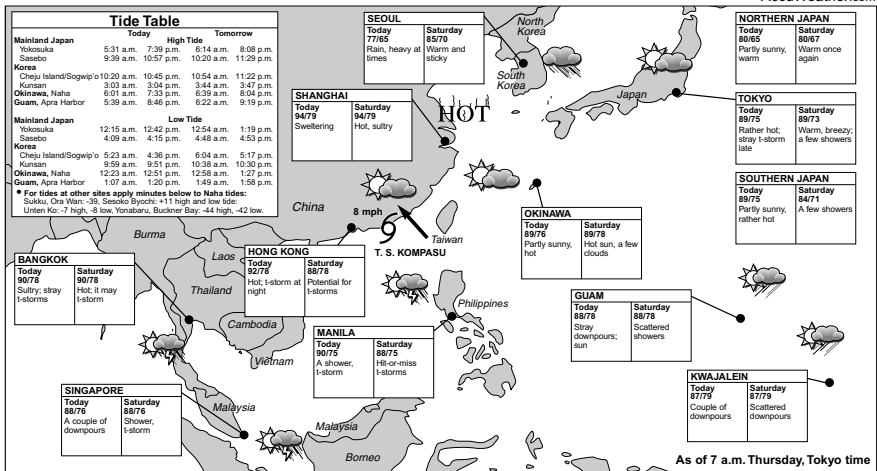
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The Pacific Forecast

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Extended Forecasts

TOKYO
Sunday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 83, low 74.
Monday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 84, low 76.

KADENA
Sunday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 89, low 78.
Monday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 89, low 78.

SEUL
Sunday: Periods of clouds and sunshine, high 87, low 67.
Monday: Showers, high 85, low 71.

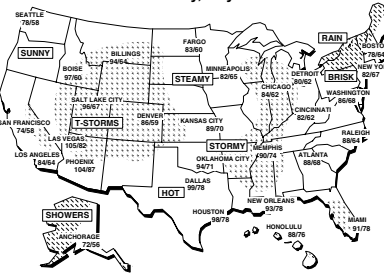
MANILA
Sunday: Showers, high 88, low 75.
Monday: Thunderstorms, high 90, low 75.

HAGATNA
Sunday: Showers, high 88, low 76.
Monday: Showers, high 88, low 76.

Wednesday's USA Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Albuquerque	93/71	Los Angeles	91/64
Anaheim	100/68	Little Rock	99/75
Anchorage	75/56	Louisville	89/66
Ashville	83/61	Miami	93/78
Baltimore	88/68	Milwaukee	76/61
Birmingham	99/74	Nashville	94/67
Bismarck	86/61	New York	79/68
Boise	99/67	Omaha	94/65
Boston	68/64	Orlando	95/74
Brownsville	95/74	Philadelphia	82/68
Buffalo	75/60	Phoenix	104/84
Burlington	79/63	Pittsburgh	78/60
Charleston, SC	97/77	Portland, OR	87/61
Charlotte	96/68	Portland, ME	67/60
Cleveland	76/61	Salt Lake City	97/71
Columbus, OH	80/60	San Antonio	95/72
Duluth	79/57	San Diego	79/67
El Paso	95/74	San Juan	89/76
Hartford	77/64	Tampa	90/78
Helena	98/61	Tulsa	100/76
Indianapolis	81/61	Washington	89/70
Jacksonville	95/76	Wichita	100/71
Kansas City	87/68		

Friday, July 16



U.S. Extended Forecast

A cold front will spark showers and thunderstorms Friday across the Gulf Coast states, including much of the Florida Peninsula. Showers will continue to wet a large part of New England. Showers and thunderstorms will also occur in the Great Lakes and Midwest. The southern Plains will continue to bask under intense sunshine. Thunderstorms will erupt over the Rockies and Southwest, especially in the afternoon. Over the weekend, a trough of low pressure will gradually move into the Pacific Northwest and bring plenty of clouds and some rain along with it. Although New England will have more showers, the Ohio Valley and Great Lakes should dry out. Thunderstorms will be common along the Gulf Coast.

Friday's Pacific Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Bangkok	90/78	Iwakuni	87/74
Beijing	92/78	Kadena AB	89/76
Camp Casey	75/66	Kansan AB	78/70
Christchurch	46/31	Kwajalein	87/79
Diego Garcia	82/75	Manila	90/75
Hagatna	88/78	Misawa AB	83/63
Hanoi	90/77	Osan	77/68
Hong Kong	92/78	Perth	63/48
Honolulu	88/76	Pusan	81/70

Friday's World Temperatures

CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW	CITY	HIGH/LOW
Acapulco	90/75	Budapest	76/56	Kabul	89/54
Athens	79/61	Buenos Aires	52/30	Kiev	65/50
Auckland	55/44	Cairo	98/64	New Delhi	103/88
Baghdad	115/84	Cancun	94/72	Oslo	67/48
Barbados	88/72	Cape Town	68/46	Paris	76/58
Barcelona	76/61	Geneva	80/61	Rio de Janeiro	78/62
Berlin	71/56	Jerusalem	72/54	Stockholm	62/61
Bermuda	87/74	Johannesburg	80/65	St. Petersburg	62/48
Brussels	73/54	Moscow	72/49	Warsaw	70/52



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Addresses

U.S. Mail, Unit 45002, APO 96337-3002

INTERNATIONAL MAIL: 2317 Roppongi-7, Chome, Minato-ku,

Tokyo 106-0002, Japan

FAX: U.S. 225-3271, cv. (+81) (03) 3408-8936

E-MAIL: Readers Forum (letters@stripes.com)

Advertising: advertising@stripes.com

Marketing: marketing@stripes.com

Circulation: circulation@stripes.com

CENTRAL OFFICE: 529 14th Street NW, Suite 250, Washington

DC 20045-1301, Phone (301) 312-763-0900 or cv.

E-MAIL: Readers Forum (letters@stripes.com)

E-MAIL: Readers Forum (letters@stripes.com)

E-MAIL: Readers Forum (letters@stripes.com)

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Don't attack the system

In his July 12 letter "Bush's acts can't be forgiven," the writer argues semantics with a 12-year-old. As manual as it is for an adult to undermine the opinions and questions posed by a child, it is best to check your own wording to save embarrassment.

In describing our president, the writer says that he was "unchoosen for the job to begin with." "Unchosen is not a word in the English language. If it were, I would suppose it to mean, "of or relating to something that is at first chosen, then seized from those who chose it."

Semantics aside, the writer's reasoning is replete with misinformation. "We" do include the country's Founding Fathers and past generations, who put the idea of an Electoral College into action. Popular vote did not elect Bush, granted, but under the Electoral College system, we do not elect the president and vice president through a direct, nationwide vote. The presidential election is decided by the combined results of 51 state elections (in this context, the term "state" includes the District of Columbia). Your vote helps decide which candidate receives your state's electoral votes. The founders of the nation devised the Electoral College system as part of a plan to share power between the states and the national government.

Bush's win was not without precedent. The same occurred in the Hayes/Tilden election of 1876, and the Harrison/Cleveland

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land election of 1888 due to the statistical disparity between vote totals in individual state elections and the national vote totals.

The "calamity" that the writer says was "thrust upon" President Bush, I am sure, was in reference to the destruction and devastation that was caused by the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. It also could be argued that the country was on the brink of "calamity" when the adulterous, disbarred and im-

peached man left office. Due to the ineptitude of President Clinton's foreign intelligence, Osama bin Laden was never dealt with, or even punished, until President Bush was put into office.

I assume that [when the writer made] the allusion to the war in Iraq as "specious," "driven by personal vanity," "ham-fisted diplomacy," "marred," and "border[ing] on folly," the report from the Senate committee concluding that the CIA had mistakenly advised President Bush of Iraq's possession of weapons of mass destruction had not been released. It may be stated that George Tenet, the former director of the CIA that supplied this erroneous information, was appointed to that post by Clinton.

It would reflect on the exaggerations that the United States is "being torn down by a police state" and that "99 percent of us" did not benefit from Bush's tax relief "for billionaires" (which, if repeated, would cause great strains on small businesses).

As all presidents who are re-elected have proved, legacies are made during the second term. Nixon had Watergate, Reagan had winning the Cold War and a deficit, communism, and Clinton had Monica Lewinsky's blouse and his cigar.

President Bush's second term will also provide his legacy. When Bush leaves office, in 2009, he will leave behind a newly structured tax system (most likely a European-style value-added system or a flat tax), a more peaceful Middle East and a strong ally in Iraq.

Sgt. Daniel M. Golden

Kuwait

News Bureaus

Japan Bureau Chief: Sid Acker, Unit 45002, APO

96337-5002, tel. U.S. 225-3357, cv. (03) 3408-8936

U.S. 225-3271, cv. (+81) (03) 3408-8936, e-mail

sid@stripes.com

Mizawa: Jennifer H. Swan, tel. U.S. 225-550, cv. (03) 3408-8936

U.S. 225-3271, cv. (+81) (03) 3408-8936, e-mail

jhs@stripes.com

Korea Bureau Chief: John Duggan, Unit 15334, APO

96337-5002, tel. U.S. 225-550, cv. (03) 3408-8936

U.S. 225-3271, cv. (+81) (03) 3408-8936, e-mail

jduggan@stripes.com

Yokosuka: Nancy Montgomery, tel. U.S. 241-2874, cv.

(+81) (3) 8401-8928, fax U.S. 241-2876, e-mail

nmc@stripes.com

Okinawa: David Allen, Fred Zimmerman, Chiyomi Sumida,

tel. U.S. 241-2874, cv. (+81) (3) 8401-8928, fax U.S. 241-2876

U.S. 241-2876, e-mail: dal@stripes.com

Korea Bureau Chief: Joseph Duggan, Unit 15334, APO

96337-5002, tel. U.S. 225-550, cv. (03) 3408-8936

U.S. 225-3271, cv. (+81) (03) 3408-8936, e-mail

jduggan@stripes.com

Okinawa: David Allen, Fred Zimmerman, Chiyomi Sumida,

tel. U.S. 241-2874, cv. (+81) (3) 8401-8928, fax U.S. 241-2876

U.S. 241-2876, e-mail: dal@stripes.com

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U.S. 225-3271, cv. (+81) (03) 3408-8936, e-mail

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96337-5002, tel. U.S. 225-550, cv. (03) 3408-8936

U.S. 225-3271, cv. (+81) (03) 3408-8936, e-mail

jduggan@stripes.com

Okinawa: David Allen, Fred Zimmerman, Chiyomi Sumida,

Cosby does harm by blaming victims

BY EARL OFARI HUTCHINSON

Comedian Bill Cosby can't seem to help himself. In his latest shoot-from-the-lip rant against blacks, he claims they can't read, write or speak coherent English. Black children, he says, are "going nowhere." But he is as wrongheaded this time as he was when he made similar remarks in May.

Look, we can all agree that the gap between black and white students is too wide and that black-on-black crime is unacceptable. But Cosby—a multimillionaire—is way out of line in trying to pin these tired stereotypes on all poor black youth, without any acknowledgment that many young blacks and their parents are striving to achieve, and indeed are achieving, often at terrible odds.

Recent surveys by the U.S. Department of Education show that in 1975 black enrollment and SAT scores had increased in many school districts while the dropout rate had decreased. The number of blacks receiving bachelor's and master's degrees also has markedly increased.

What's more, despite Cosby's snide comments, a 2002 survey of student attitudes by the Minority Student Achievement Network, an Illinois-based education watchdog, found that black students were

as motivated, studied as hard and were as serious about graduating as whites.

And despite Cosby's charge that "the lower-economic people are not holding up their end," even in the poorest of poor black neighborhoods countless numbers of children live in nonwelfare-dependent, two-parent households in which the children do not sell drugs, join gangs, get pregnant in their teens or mumble in unintelligible babble.

Cosby should know these things. He has spent much of his career battling the clown, con and mammy images of blacks in Hollywood. He has written books too numerous to count about young blacks. He has given tons of money to charitable and educational causes whose goal is to provide resources and create opportunities for the legions of young blacks who want to improve their lives.

Though Cosby is one of the best-known blacks to fan negative racial stereotypes, he's hardly the only one. Despite much evidence to the contrary, many blacks—and that apparently includes Jesse Jackson Sr., who nodded approvingly during Cosby's tirade—continue to perpetuate, demean and ridicule themselves. They unthinkingly spin sordid tales of ghetto cacklers, gangbangers, drive-by shooters and illiterate bachelors "supposedly" mangle every black community into a war zone.

Some blacks in the rap and hip-hop world are deeply committed in fanning these stereotypes. The rap moguls have reaped kings' ransoms peddling their music-video-cartoon version of the thug life; some, like Tupac Shakur, tragically fell victim to it when the violence turned real. The rebellious young of all colors who sell out billions and buy into this lifestyle are almost totally mindless of the social complexities and artistic and intellectual richness of the black experience.

Cosby's remarks are not just offering grist for conservative talking heads; they blame the victim, giving credence to the idea that all the problems of poor blacks are self-inflicted.

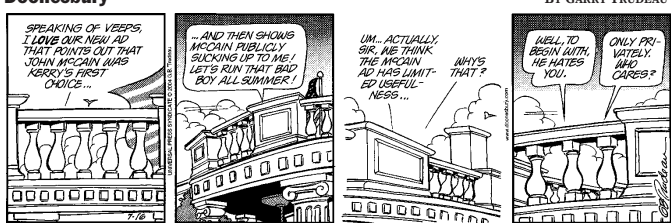
Instead of blaming the victim and encouraging old stereotypes, Cosby should be directing his ire at the root causes and demanding action...

Cosby didn't invent the showstopper stereotype that poor blacks, and indeed the poor in general, are their own worst enemy. And few would deny that there are steps that black Americans should be taking. But when he speaks, people listen. In this case, what he heard only reinforces negative beliefs about the black poor.

Earl Ofari Hutchinson is a political analyst and author of "The Crisis in Black and Black." This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

BY GARRY TRUDEAU

Doonesbury



OPINION

Kerry should renounce extremist support ...

It won't be long now until John Kerry will be accepting the Democratic nomination for president of the United States, and I can almost hear him speaking.

Jay Ambrose



he looks out at the expectant delegates and tells them where he stands.

"I would remind you," he may well say, "that extremism in the defense of my election is no vice. And let me remind you also that moderation in the pursuit of defeating George W. Bush is no virtue."

Those words — with a few changes — were actually spoken by Barry Goldwater when he accepted the Republican nomination in 1964. Some of his most vociferous supporters were wacky to the point of being scary, including some members of the John Birch Society. Its founder, Robert Welch, had gone so far as to say President Dwight Eisenhower was a "dedicated, conscious agent of the Communist conspiracy."

Reject these extremists, Goldwater was urged. But while his own conservatism consisted essentially

of the common sense, real-world understanding of the threats to the individual posed by an ever-growing federal government, he treaded softly in talking about even his loudest backers, telling the GOP convention that extremism in defense of liberty was a good thing and that moderation in pursuit of justice was bad.

A few commentators have urged Kerry to reject the extremists now shrieking their absurdities. More should demand, they say, that he should do what Goldwater failed to do: make clear that he wants no part of the sort of politics that feeds off paranoia and hatred while poisoning political discourse in America.

The candidate might start with Julian Bond, president of the NAACP.

Put Bond's rhetoric in an extremist race with Welch's, and it just might take victory laps. According to Bond, Bush wants to get rid of the 14th Amendment assuring equality under law. The White House, he has said, is in the grip of a "right-wing conspiracy." Bush and other Republicans appeal to "the dark underside of American culture" and seek electoral success through policies of racial division, he keeps repeating.

Considering such talk — and, believe me, there is more — and the effect it has on the wondrous Bush decided to avoid speaking at this

month's NAACP convention. ("Will you walk into my parlor?" said the spider to the fly. / It's the prettiest little parlor that ever you did spy.") Members of the group, who reportedly were outraged at Bush's trepidation about being eaten alive, might ask themselves whether Bond and some others are not denouncing an organization whose past accomplishments are of historic consequence.

Kerry, who did address the NAACP convention, is not going to risk alienating minority voters by taking on Bond, of course, but what about Michael Moore, another outlandish imaginer of conspiracies? The director of "Fahrenheit 9/11" as much as says in the movie that Bush started the war in Iraq because of his family's financial interests in Saudi Arabia. The thesis that the war was meant to repay the Saudis has a flaw, as others have pointed out: The Saudis were opposed to the war.

The movie has other flaws, such as grotesque intellectual dishonesty in its failure to discuss Saddam Hussein's genocidal past.

Some of the film editing — giving one sentence of a Condoleezza Rice quote entirely out of context — is equivalent to lying. No, let's state it more bluntly: It is a lie. The movie represents a low in recent American politics, and Kerry — who says he has not seen it and doesn't plan to — ought to join



those flocking to theaters, and then comment.

Oh, but let's be real. I don't kid myself that Kerry will attack Moore, either, or that he will castigate the extreme bad taste of that great intellect of our times, Whoopi Goldberg, whose performance at a recent Democratic fund-raiser apparently established a new low. He sure as heck won't criticize Al Gore, who went off the deep end in a speech comparing Bush not just to Hitler (comparable these days) but also to Stalin. Wow.

But liberals might note that conservatives — William F. Buckley led the way — did dissociate themselves from the John Birch Society and other conspiracy-mongers, making clear that their inimitable did not represent their philosophy. The way thus was further paved for a conservative ascendancy marked by the election of Ronald Reagan as president. Political courage can have its rewards.

Jay Ambrose is director of editorial policy for Scripps Howard Newspapers.

...and Bush should be realistic, not just optimistic

I never dreamed that to be feeling quite so cranky this early in the campaign season. Or that I would be driven from my usual sunny disposition to grumpiness by the Optimism Imperative.

Have you noticed that the second most overused word in presidential politics — right after "values" — is optimism? Optimism is not just an attitude anymore, it's an entire political platform. It's as if both candidates were competing for Optimism in Chief.

The whole thing began, as far as I can tell, in February, that dourst of months, when Bush's campaign manager said: "We're moving into a phase where we will begin contrasting the president's positive, optimistic vision with the alternative."

Since then, Republicans have issued more warnings about pessimism than about terrorism. Bush has ritually described himself as "optimistic about America because I believe in the people of America." The Republicans have run ads — going negative on negativity — attacking Kerry as "still pessimistic, on a misery tour." Dick Cheney, a walking, talking scroll of a man, has said "it's a choice between President Bush's hope and optimism and Sen. Kerry's pessimism."

And even after Kerry walked to the sunny side of the street for his running mate, the Bush/Cheney Web site warned: "Sen. Edwards delivers his pessimism with a Southern drawl and a smile. It's isn't an optimism, he just plays one on TV."

Edwards himself once delivered a speech called "In Defense of Optimism." And Kerry put out an ad, full of beaming children, say-

ing: "We're a country of the future. We're a country of optimists. We're the can-do people."

The need to be seen as the Upbeat Candidate became institutionalized after 1987, when the psychologist Martin Seligman's research on campaign speeches concluded that the more optimistic candidate nearly always wins.

The Optimism Imperative usually cites a list of White House winners. Franklin Delano Roosevelt's theme song in the midst of the Depression was "Happy Days Are Here Again." Ronald Reagan made his sunny nest in a slogan: "Morning Again in America." And Bill Clinton was the ever-resilient Man from Hope. On the other hand, there was Jimmy Carter "malaise."

As for Bush, who continually boosts his own optimism? One ad even says that "pessimism never created a job." ("Tell that to the defense industry.") Was it the pessimist Bush who accepted the bleakest flotsam and jets-

am of intelligence to bolster war against Saddam? Or was it the eternal optimist Bush who believed that we'd be greeted with flowers?

For that matter, does the Bush view of a world divided into good and evil-doers cheer you up? Or make you gloomy? Is the view that we should bring democracy to the world optimistic? Or foolhardy? By the way, the Bush team still can't decide whether it wins more points when voters are scared or hopeful. So we get alternating terrorism alerts and happy talk. Maybe this is what Oscar Wilde meant when he said, "The basis of optimism is sheer error."

The Optimism Imperative has infected both parties, but it actually comes in two strains: the ins and the outs. The "ins" attach optimism to the status quo and equate criticism with pessimism. The "outs" attach optimism to change.

John Kerry, who does not come across as a happy warrior, has chosen as his campaign

mantra a poem written by Langston Hughes during the Depression: "Let America be America again/Let it be the dream it used to be."

In my book, any politician who thinks he can beat the odds and become president of the United States qualifies automatically as an optimist. With the possible exception of Ralph Nader. But I am not willing to concede that a candidate's optimism is the political trump card. Attitude is no substitute for sober judgment. A cheerleader is not always a leader.

Some of our greatest accomplishments and some of our greatest disasters were all begun with optimism. The "can-do spirit" is fine and Yankee Doodle Dandy. But a leader needs to know the difference between what we can do and what we should do, and what we'd better not do.

That would give me reason for optimism.

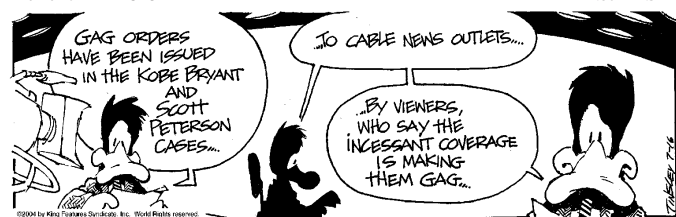
Ellen Goodman is a member of Washington Post Writers Group.

Ellen Goodman



Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



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Family shooting

WA KENNEDICK — Four children who were reported missing after their grandparents were shot to death were found safe last week, but their father remained at large, authorities said.

Neighbors reported seeing James T. Moran leave the mobile home where the shootings took place, police Sgt. Randy Maynard said. Cpl. Tim Scott said the victims were the children's maternal grandparents. They were identified as Glenn Dale Carr, 57, and his wife, Debra Jolene Carr, 50.

An Amber Alert had gone out for the four children, ages 5 to 10.

Very old pottery find

VA ROANOKE — Archaeologists have uncovered pottery pieces, spear tips made of quartz and a large cooking area in an American Indian settlement dating back to the 13th century.

The dig is the latest of several that have taken place over the last few decades along the Roanoke River. A series of floods, which may have forced the group to leave, protected the artifacts and kept them from becoming mixed with the remnants of later civilizations, said Bill Stanyard, a senior archaeologist at the site.

"It's unusual for it to be so well preserved," Stanyard said of the site.

Stanyard's team of a dozen archaeologists plan to continue excavating the 8,000-square-foot site for the next several weeks.

DUI cutoff lowered

DE DOVER — Gov. Ruth Ann Minner signed the state's lower blood alcohol limit into law during a ceremony at Delaware State Police Headquarters. The law took effect immediately, making it illegal for anyone to drive with a blood alcohol concentration of .08 percent or more. The previous limit was .10.

Fish got the ring

MN ST. PAUL — Erik Hobbie was amazed at his own stupidity.

The St. Paul native and ice fisherman had known for months how he would propose to his girlfriend. Over Thanksgiving weekend last year at his family's cabin near Ely in far northern Minnesota, he had his chance.

Hobbie woke up early that morning to drill holes in the ice on Burnside Lake and erect a tip-up — a spring-loaded device that indicates a fish has taken the bait.

On the end of the line he tied his grandmother's heirloom diamond ring.

Poorly, as it turned out. When he went to the hole with his girlfriend, Pamela Gahr, and they pulled up the line, the ring was gone.

"When he got to the end, he just looked at it in kind of horror," said Gahr. She didn't believe him until he produced the empty jewelry box.

"There was nothing we could do but laugh," Gahr said. "Then we just stood there staring at the hole for some time trying to figure out what to do."

Hobbie, 44, who works as a chemical engineer in Washington,



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

D.C., popped the question on the spot anyway. Gahr, 37, a native of Champlin, said, "Yes."

Kid gets gramps medals

CO FORT COLLINS — A ninth-grader's history project helped her grandfather get two Silver Stars and four other World War II medals nearly 60 years after he left the Navy.

Donald Galbraith, 78, received the medals in a surprise ceremony at his daughter's Fort Collins home on July 4.

Galbraith served on the USS Indiana in the South Pacific but left the service in 1946 without applying for the medals. His granddaughter, Mariah Foster, 16, learned of the omission while documenting his life for a school project.

Galbraith's daughter, Carrie Mass, decided to track the medals down. It took 18 months, but she received them three weeks before Independence Day. Mass invited her father to her house for the holiday, telling him it was for a family portrait. Instead, he was greeted by friends, family members and Navy officials for the presentation.

Developer hailed

MI DETROIT — Officials hope that Wayne County's new redevelopment chief can work the same magic in Detroit that he has elsewhere. Mulugetta Birru turned Pittsburgh's slag heaps into lush



Pow wow

Travis Lovett, of Douglasville, Ga., dances during the Great Mohican Indian Pow-Wow at the Mohican Reservation Campgrounds in Loudonville, Ohio.

ters of upscale housing and converted an abandoned steel mill into 123 acres of lofts, stores and offices. Birru, 57, will head the newly formed nonprofit Wayne County Economic Development Corp., beginning Aug. 1.

Toran sentenced

FL CLEARWATER — Kyle Maskell, 18, was sentenced to 10 days in jail and two years probation for using a sling-shot to shatter office building windows some believed bore the image of the Virgin Mary. Maskell began serving his sentence immediately. He also was ordered to undergo psychological evaluation and complete any recommended treatment.

Flag project under way

NE ORD — Several residents are in the initial stages of raising \$32,000 to fly a really big flag. Jerry Neeman, president of the Ord Flagpole Project Committee, was born on Flag Day. He hopes his committee can erect a 150-foot flag pole to be topped by a 30-by-60-foot flag by July 4, 2005.

Wolf killed

NM ALBUQUERQUE — The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service says a federal sharpshooter has killed an endangered Mexican gray wolf that was preying on cattle on an Indian reservation in Arizona.

Trappers had been trying to capture the wolf, a member of the Saddle Pack, since March but the rough terrain and the wolf's erratic movements made it too difficult.

The wolf was tracked to the San Carlos Apache reservation on Sunday and killed with a single gunshot, said U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service spokeswoman Elizabeth Slown.

The agency decided in June to authorize the lethal action, marking the second time federal agents have killed a wolf in the New Mexico-Arizona region since the Mexican wolf reintroduction program began in 1998.

"Lethal take is our last choice for removing wolves," said Dale Hall, director of the agency's southwest region.

Before the reintroduction program began, Hall said the Fish and Wildlife Service made a promise that it would remove depredate wolves.

Windmill project snag

TN OLIVER SPRINGS — The expansion of the Tennessee Valley Authority's windmill project on Buffalo Mountain has hit a last-minute snag.

Oliver Springs Mayor Ed Kelley worries that hauling the seven-ton, 135-foot-long windmill blades and 95,000-pound bases for each of the 15 windmills through his town will damage the roads.

"You're not going to pull that crap down my streets unless some judge tells me," Kelley told representatives of the three companies involved in the \$30 million Invenergy LLC project Tuesday.

"It is not our intention to come bootlegging through here and leave a path of destruction in our wake," Alan Barnhart, president of the company overseeing the project, assured the mayor.



Business is slow

Ryan Nall, left, pours his mother, Laurie, a cool drink as they wait for customers at Ryan's lemonade stand in front of their home in Anderson, S.C.



Dinner time

Two baby ruby-throated hummingbirds wait to be fed in their nest at the home of Mildred and Cecil Ellis in Danville, Ky.



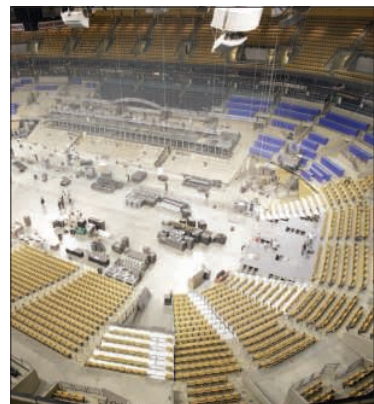
Wrapping it up

Workers put finishing touches on the sculpture christened "Cloud Gate" at Chicago's Millennium Park. The sculpture of polished steel plates is part of the \$475 million project between Lake Michigan and bustling Michigan Avenue to be opened to the public July 16.



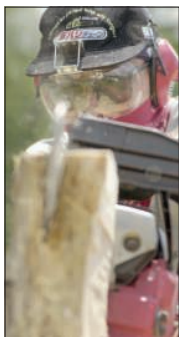
Inaugural crossing
mill bridge.

Participants cross the Sundial Bridge during an unveiling ceremony in Redding, Calif. Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava crafted the \$23.5



Work in progress

Construction continues on the interior of the FleetCenter in Boston in preparation for the July 26-29 Democratic National Convention.



A cut above

Chainsaw sculptor Kelji Kidokoro, of Aichi, Japan, makes the initial cuts on the log he is transforming into a mountain house during Old Sanborn Days at the Sanborn Fire Hall in Sanborn, N.Y.



His masterpiece

Teek Eaton-Koch, 17, constructs an Aztec temple during the annual sand sculpture contest in Greenwich Point, Conn.

Teen nabbed by police

WI GREEN BAY — Three times was the charm for police who apprehended a teen bicyclist after the third robbery in a week of the same gas station.

Police said Monday that the 18-year-old man was arrested in connection with the robberies at East Mason Shell. The final heist was Sunday night, and it followed robberies the previous Tuesday and again on Friday. The description of the robber in all three cases was similar.

After the first two robberies, Officer Dave Steffens staked out the station area.

Once the call about the robbery came in, Steffens spotted a suspect pedaling a bicycle and took him into custody without incident.

Christopher R. Harris was charged with three counts of armed robbery, carrying a possible sentence of up to 40 years in prison.

Airline service ends

PA LATROBE — Arnold Palmer Regional Airport near Latrobe saw the departure of the last US Airways Express. The flight ended 19 consecutive years of commuter service linking the airport with Pittsburgh International Airport, about 45 miles away. Airport officials haven't been able to line up another commuter service.

Woman was not dead

CA SAN FRANCISCO — The San Francisco Fire Department is investigating why a paramedic crew pronounced a 90-year-old woman dead and left her for the medical examiner, only to rush back to her home an hour later when investigators discovered she was alive.

The woman, Divia Masetti, died the next day after being taken to a hospital, authorities said.

Masetti was discovered last week in her house, caked in dried blood and urine and covered with flies and ants. The neighbor who found her, Anna Iriarborde, said she promptly called 911. "I really thought she was dead," she said.

A paramedic pronounced Masetti dead at the scene. Paramedics were summoned back after Masetti moaned when the coroner's investigators moved her, authorities said. She died the next morning; the cause of death has not been determined.

Tax-free weekend late

SC ANDERSON — Some parents must wait until school starts to get a chance to buy tax-free school supplies during the state's annual sales tax holiday weekend. The holiday falls this year Aug. 6-8. About 300 of the state's 1,100 schools will start before Aug. 6. Items such as clothes and computers are exempt from the state's 5 percent sales tax and any additional local sales tax.

No more party school

CO BOULDER — University of Colorado freshmen are getting a strong anti-alcohol message as the school tries to crack down on binge drinking and shed its image as a party school. This year's freshmen will take a mandatory Web-based alcohol course.

Presentations for students and parents about alcohol, date rape,

drugs and safety are getting higher billing in the orientation schedule.

Wal-Mart plans blocked

OR HILLSBORO — The Oregon Court of Appeals denied Wal-Mart's plans to build a store in Hillsboro after the world's largest retail chain argued the city changed its rules in order to block the store. Wal-Mart spokesman Eric Berger said Wal-Mart has not decided whether it will appeal to the Oregon Supreme Court. The city's objections centered on traffic and whether the store would blend in a residential area.

Girl bitten by ferrets

NC CARY — A 6-month-old girl wound up in the hospital after three ferrets bit her multiple times at her home. Her parents have been charged with misdemeanor child abuse.

John William Taylor, 33, and Donna Carroll Taylor-Cox, 38, were charged after a social worker notified police of the baby's injuries.

Police say they are investigating the case; more charges could be filed.

Police said Taylor and Taylor-Colville had allowed the ferrets access to the baby in their apartment.

Halibut found ruined

AK ANCHORAGE — Airline officials believe they have found the halibut that vanished from Ray Bolanos' checked bags two weeks ago on an Anchorage-to-Seattle flight — an incident that galloped the Bolanos family, mystified the airline for a time, and stirred media interest across the country.

Brenee Davis, a general manager for Continental Airlines in Anchorage, said the company's baggage handlers discovered "a ton of rotting fish" under a luggage conveyor belt recently at Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport that was sinking up the room.

Bolanos was flying Continental when about 40 pounds of his halibut vanished. Davis said there's no way to be certain the fish was his, but "we're taking a lucky guess."

The fish smelled incredibly bad and was pitched immediately, Davis said.

Town renamed

NY ALBANY — The Franklin County town of Altamont is no more.

The town has been renamed Tupper Lake to eliminate confusion with an Albany County village by the same name.

Town officials hope the name change will bode well for tourism while strengthening ties with the Adirondack village of Tupper Lake.

"I am excited that the town of Altamont is being changed to the town of Tupper Lake," said town supervisor Gregory LaFrance. "It will save a lot of confusion with the village of Altamont and it enhances the cooperation between the village and town governments."

Earlier this year, town officials lobbied the Legislature and Gov. George Pataki to change the town's name after it was determined that it carried no historical significance. On Sunday, Pataki signed legislation into law authorizing change.

Stories and photos from wire services

Horoscope

Mars and Neptune exchange strong vibes, inviting one another to show off their talents. Mars wants us to take strong, decisive action, whereas Neptune begs us to latch onto more ethereal concepts and dream bigger, even if our plans aren't actually feasible. Wait until tomorrow's moon is to choose between practical and possibility thinking.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (July 16). Your confidence and self-esteem are on the charts this year, helping you build friendships that will carry you toward your life purpose.

Positive influences go far to bringing you toward your goals — you'll find many of those in an educational setting.

Change patterns that no longer suit you in November, and you'll increase your earning in the process.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Though it would be so easy to get caught up in how and why you landed in this place, stay attentive to what is happening now. If you can stay present, new clarity helps you develop a workable action plan.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). You're a big respecter of privacy, but you may not be able to contain your curiosity about a situation any longer. Remember what happened to the cat! Before you ask a lot of questions, consider what you might be getting into.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You've up the energy to move forward, but there will still be delays. No worries — these only help you make more thorough plans and also give you the chance to review and be sure before you finalize decisions.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). The day starts not with a bang but with a burst of diligence and elbow grease. Even if all you do is prep work today, it's the most productive day you've had in a long time. Details fall right into place.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Many people will be competing for the same result, and only a small num-

ber will be able to attain it. Such odds don't scare you, though. Mahatma Gandhi said, "There would be nothing to frighten you if you refused to be afraid."

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Your emotions are volatile. Take time to cool off whenever you need it. Puttering around the house is just the remedy to take your mind off worries and ease you into a productive mood. Tonight, you're magnetic.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Re-define your aims, goals and objectives. Even if you spend the whole day thinking, drawing, planning, making charts and researching — and do nothing that makes you any money — you'll be far ahead for the effort.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). You've got much to do and won't be able to handle it all alone. Begin the day by delegating to whoever seems willing. A flirtation with an Aries or Leo featured. Even you are surprised by your own nerve.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Get domestic annoyances out of your life once and for all. Cleaning out your house helps you move forward. Also, forgive loved ones of whatever it was they did to get you mad. Resentments only restrain you.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll build on your former expectation and create a new one that overshadows anything you've dared to dream in the past. Just because you envision something doesn't mean you'll get it, but it certainly increases your chance!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Develop your powers of empathy! Whether applied to your love life or your professional life, your increased compassion will make you rich. Practice visualizing life from another person's point of view. You'll find solutions.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You're focused on the practicalities of life. After all, they must be handled in order for you to relax and dream. Lists, visualization, organizing, and just doing will make a huge difference in your world.

Creators Syndicate

Joyce Jillson



Calvin and Hobbes

Jump Start

Zits

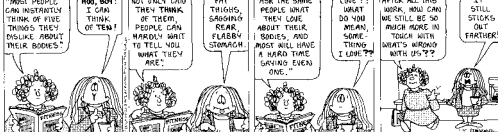
Cathy

Hi and Lois

Beetle Bailey

Red and Rover

Better or Worse



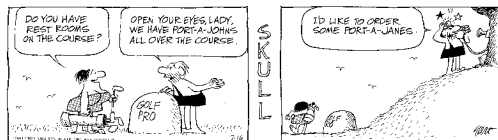
Peanuts



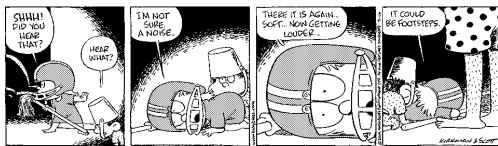
Fox trot



B.C.



Baby Bites



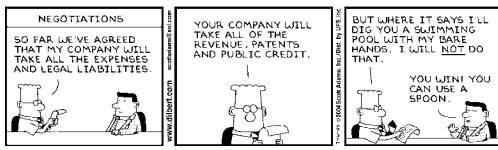
Spider Man



Blondie



Dilbert



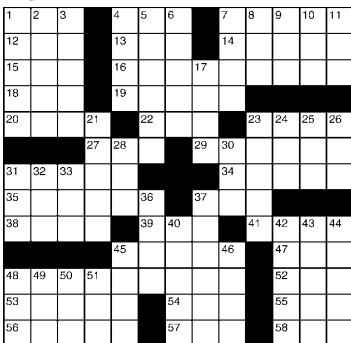
Hagar



Garfield



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



Across

- 1 Anecdotal collection
- 4 Spreadsheet, e.g.
- 7 Trattoria entree
- 12 Judo degree
- 13 Bill's partner
- 14 Slip
- 15 Schlep
- 16 Grassy garment
- 18 Anger
- 19 Poet's Muse
- 20 Idea symbol
- 22 Tide rival
- 23 Icicle's place
- 27 Blazed the trail
- 29 — out (broke)
- 31 Accordion feature
- 34 Loves not wisely but too well
- 35 Picture in pieces
- 37 "Friends" cast member
- 38 Lady Macbeth's dog?
- 39 "Eureka!" discipline
- 41 Guru's discipline
- 45 Sleep soundly?
- 47 Craze
- 48 Bikini pattern
- 52 Back
- 53 Tammany Hall boss
- 54 Energy
- 55 Undergo recession
- 56 Isolated
- 57 Turning
- 58 Canape topper

Down

- 1 Improvise
- 2 Pleasant Island, today
- 3 Roma Downey portrayal
- 4 Liniment target
- 5 Decanted
- 6 On top of the world?
- 7 Mexican money
- 8 Torah repository
- 9 Lanka lead-in
- 10 Craggy peak
- 11 Illustrations
- 17 Rat tail?
- 21 Explosion
- 23 Strong hold?
- 24 Suitable
- 25 Churchill gesture
- 26 Mag. staffers
- 28 EWR info
- 30 Commotion
- 31 Nightwear
- 32 Back talk
- 33 Swelled head
- 36 Musical staff?
- 37 Industrial group
- 40 B-ball
- 42 Bid
- 43 Mata Hari portrayal
- 44 Pueblo material
- 45 "Smooth Operator" singer
- 46 Catch sight of
- 48 Sch. org.
- 49 Barn dweller
- 50 Author Buxaglia
- 51 Barbie's ex

Answer to Previous Puzzle



7-16

CRYPTOQUIP

D G S O B D R F S P Q S K B P B S
P I S O B K I F S S B S P T G
R B G S F . B G S Z T R C Q M

K P Z "GRCKS XB I R X O I!"
Yesterday's Cryptquip: I ASSUME A MARRIAGE THAT HAS BEEN OUTLAWED COULD BE CALLED A WEDDING BANNED.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: 1 equals G

FRIDAY EVENING / JULY 16, 2004

MOVIES

• **SPORTS**

J	6PM	6:30	7PM	7:30	8PM	8:30	9PM	9:30	10PM	10:30	11PM	11:30
6	AFN-P	WESPNews	Pacific Report	The Simpsons Baron the American flag. (CC)	Malcolm in the Middle Grandpa has a new beard. (CC)	The Apprentice (CC)	Alas! "Broward" Assassins ambush Sydney and Vaughn; Sloane divulges a dark secret to Dr. Barnett. (CC)		Pacific Report	The Tonight Show (CC)	Late Show (CC)	
7	AFN-Alt	5:30p Guiding Light (CC)	General Hospital (CC)	Headline News	Judge Judy (CC)	Today (CC)			House of Mouse "Super Golf" (CC)	Rocko's Modern Life (CC)	Ozzy & Dixie May... As Told by Ginger (CC)	
8	NEWS	PrimeTime		The O'Reilly Factor (CC)	Good Morning America (CC)				Headline News	ABC World News This Morning (CC)	The Early Show (CC)	
9	SPORTS	SportsCenter	ESPNs		MLB Baseball: Baltimore Orioles @ Tampa Bay Devil Rays.				SportsCenter		Sports Reporters/Pardon the Inter- ruption (CC)	
10	SPEC	The Dead Zone: "Joe Voodoo" John nemes in danger despite Johnny's abilities. (CC)	Boston Public "Chapter Twenty" Her- man's life becomes complicated by his friend's rebellious daughter. (CC)	The Crocodile Hunter Steve and Terri travel the man-made fence between Western Queensland. (CC)	World of Wildlife	Animal Adventures "Beary Alive!" (CC)			The Vampire Slayer "Normal Again" Bothies come to believe that her life is a player never existed.	The X-Files "Theor" Mulder and Scully track an escaped convict. (CC)		
14	TMC	135 *** "Chilly Days" (2001, Comedy) Red Dog Mac must save his life from a sled dog race in a sled dog race for his fortune. PG-13 (CC)	Street Outlaws, Natasha Henstridge, Leslie Neuman. An her must compete in a sled dog race for his fortune. PG-13 (CC)	*** "How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days" (2003, Romance-Comedy) Kate Hudson, Matthew McConaughey, Adam Goldberg Nemes. A writer bible to catch a seduce a man and then drive him away. PG-13 (CC)	Washington Wet Will Street Week Night Fortune (N) N)	Now With Bill Moyers Benefits on Capitol Hill. (N)			*** "Hart's War" (2002, Action) Bruce Willis, Colin Farrell, Terrence Howard Will student delivers a murder suspect in a New Fow camp. R (CC)			
24	PBS	Clifford the Big Red Dog Mac must save his life from a sled dog race in a sled dog race for his fortune. PG-13 (CC)	Dragon Takes Max with a spider. (E)	The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer (CC)		Washington Wet Will Street Week Night Fortune (N) N)	Now With Bill Moyers Benefits on Capitol Hill. (N)		Tucker Carlson: (Unfiled) (N)	Firewomen (CC)	Charlie Rose (CC)	
25	SHOW	155 *** "Dead Heat" (2002, Suspense) Kiefer Sutherland, Anthony LaPaglia, Radha Mitchell. Mobsters make a play for a retired cop's new cashmere. R (CC)			*** "GoldenEye" (1995, Adventure) Pierce Brosnan, Sean Bean, Izabella Scott. James Bond enters Russia to retrieve stolen weapons. (CC)				155 "Dead Like Me" "The Boyzies" They leave happy. (CC)		Free for All Johnny Myma get in- teacher's aide.	Family Business Myma get in- teacher's aide.
27	A&E	Cyber City: The murder of a car- diologist in 1980 shocked the commu- nity. (CC)	American Justice "Lipstick Killer" Three-time convicted killer claims he's innocent. (CC)	To Be Announced	Biography: Sam Giancana: The Gangster Who Dreamed "Influential gangster Sam Giancana. (CC)	Africa's Great Rivers	Wild and Dangerous	To Be Announced	American Justice "Payback for a Bully" Friends lure a student to a remote area in a murder. (CC)			
28	DISC	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced	To Be Announced
29	TC	5:50p Bida Si Mister, Bida Si Mister carnival. (CC)	Insider	In Private Reunions enjoy passion.	Baiting America (In Tagalog)	Morning Girls	4:40 Masyang Tamarang Bayan				1:10p Tito Kila	3:30 Sarah...Teen Princess
30	CNN-I	Larry King Live (CC)	CNN World News	World Sport	Business International	Asia Tonight	Biz Asia		CNN World News	World Sport	Biz Asia	The Music Room
31	GOLF	4:00p Talk: British Open.	4:00p British Open Highlights 2000	4:00p British Open Highlights 2000	4:00p British Open Highlights 2000	4:00p British Open Highlights 2000	4:00p British Open Highlights 2000	4:00p British Open Highlights 2000	4:00p British Open Highlights 2000	4:00p British Open Highlights 2000	4:00p British Open Highlights 2000	4:00p British Open Highlights 2000
32	TLC	Master Sweep: "Some Bunny Loves Me" Clean Sweep: home office. (CC)	In a Fix "Shall of a Ranch" Farmhouse becomes a stylish ranch. (CC)	Powergirl Girls!	Cartoon Cartoon	Cartoon Cartoon	2 Stupid Dogs		Am Wessel	Sheep in the Big City	Detective Squad	
34	TOON	Samurai Jack	Dexter's Laboratory	Courage the Cow- ardly Dog	Teen Titans	Powergirl Girls!	Cartoon Cartoon	2 Stupid Dogs		Am Wessel	Sheep in the Big City	Detective Squad
35	ANPL	The Crocodile Hunter Wildlife rescue mission staged after the revolution in East Timor. (CC)	The Animals' Fun- nel Animals (CC)	The Animals' Fun- nel Animals (CC)	Big Cat Magic: Magician Dirk Arthur presents a one tiger and two leopards at Bally's, Las Vegas. (CC)	Secrets of Animal Magic History: zoology breeding, training, ethical consider- ations. (CC)			Miami Animal Police: "Dougs Two Am- ping" encounters two dangerous pit bulls. (CC)		Big Cat Magic: Magician Dirk Arthur presents a one tiger and two leopards at Bally's, Las Vegas. (CC)	
36	COM	Late Night with Chris Rock, Sharon Elizabeth, Joe Buck. (CC)	The Daily Show	Mad TV (CC)	The Graham Norton Effect (CC)	Comedy Central Presents: Total Bill Corky performs. (CC)	Comedy Central Presents: Total Bill Corky performs. (CC)	Comedy Central Presents: Total Bill Corky performs. (CC)	Comedy Central Presents: Total Bill Corky performs. (CC)	Comedy Central Presents: Total Bill Corky performs. (CC)	Comedy Central Presents: Total Bill Corky performs. (CC)	Comedy Central Presents: Total Bill Corky performs. (CC)
40	NGC-A	Dream Jets: "World's Most" An inside look at the world's most luxurious aircraft. (CC)	Toyota World of Wildlife	Planet Wild	Zambesi: Force of Life	Spidan, Secrets of the Turtle Tomb			Secret Life of Cats: A cat's playful demands transforms into that of a hunter once outdoors. (CC)	Kanzi		
42	SPIKE	Horsenapow TV (CC)	Horsenapow TV (CC)	Star Trek: The Next Generation "High Ground" (CC)	Star Trek: The Next Generation "Deja 'Q" (CC)	Star Trek: Deep Space Nine "In Purga- sion's Shadow" (CC)	Star Trek: Deep Space Nine "In Purga- sion's Shadow" (CC)	Star Trek: Deep Space Nine "In Purga- sion's Shadow" (CC)	Star Trek: Deep Space Nine "In Purga- sion's Shadow" (CC)	Star Trek: Deep Space Nine "In Purga- sion's Shadow" (CC)	Star Trek: Deep Space Nine "In Purga- sion's Shadow" (CC)	Star Trek: Deep Space Nine "In Purga- sion's Shadow" (CC)
43	FOX	Fame "Broken Fame" A severe schizophrenia, students and teachers in the school with a "broken fame". (CC)	Blind Date: A shy girl dates an in- school with a "broken fame". (CC)	Blind Date: A shy girl dates an in- school with a "broken fame". (CC)	The Bernie Mac Show (CC)	The Bernie Mac Show (CC)	The Bernie Mac Show (CC)	The Bernie Mac Show (CC)	The Bernie Mac Show (CC)	The Bernie Mac Show (CC)	The Bernie Mac Show (CC)	The Bernie Mac Show (CC)
44	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 100 Live Show	Body of Evidence	Cops: Cat jokers crash into an allied up in the Simpson's Cheers (CC)	BET.com Count- down	Movie Files The ABC's of Dating: A killer just shot me Bass. (CC)	Movie Files The ABC's of Dating: A killer just shot me Bass. (CC)	Movie Files The ABC's of Dating: A killer just shot me Bass. (CC)	Movie Files The ABC's of Dating: A killer just shot me Bass. (CC)	Movie Files The ABC's of Dating: A killer just shot me Bass. (CC)	Movie Files The ABC's of Dating: A killer just shot me Bass. (CC)	Movie Files The ABC's of Dating: A killer just shot me Bass. (CC)
46	COURT	Body of Evidence: From the Case Files	Cops: Cat jokers crash into an allied up in the Simpson's Cheers (CC)	BET.com Count- down	Movie Files The ABC's of Dating: A killer just shot me Bass. (CC)	Movie Files The ABC's of Dating: A killer just shot me Bass. (CC)			The System "Crimes of the Heart" High school murder case. (CC)	Fake Out (N)	Forensic Files Apartment fire kills two teens. (CC)	
48	STR-IL	Body of Evidence: From the Case Files	Cops: Cat jokers crash into an allied up in the Simpson's Cheers (CC)	BET.com Count- down	Movie Files The ABC's of Dating: A killer just shot me Bass. (CC)	Movie Files The ABC's of Dating: A killer just shot me Bass. (CC)			I Dare You	Nash Bridges (CC)		
50	LIFE	5:00p *** "Too Rich: The Secret Life of Doris Duke" (1996, Drama) Lauren Bacall, Richard Chamberlain, Kathleen Dunigan. Doris meets Porfirio Rubirosa and Louis Bromfield. (CC)				Best Friends for Life" (1996, Drama) Farnsworth. Lifelong pals cope differently with their sudden widowed. (CC)			Gena Rowlands, Linda Lavin, Richard Farnsworth. Lifelong pals cope differently with their sudden widowed. (CC)		Merge: A couple tries to merge tastes. (CC)	
51	ABC-FM	Full House (CC)	Full House (CC)	7th Heaven (CC)		*** "Getting Even With Dad" (1994, Comedy) Macaulay Culkin, Ted Danson, Glenne Headly. A boy battles togetherness upon his estranged father. (CC)			Whose Line Is It Anyway? (CC)	Whose Line Is It Anyway? (CC)	The 700 Club (CC)	
53	HIST	American Revolution "England's Last Chance" (Part 5 of 6) (CC)	American Revolution "Birth of the Re- public" (Part 6 of 6) (CC)	The Aircraft Carrier (CC)		A-10 Tankbuster: The A-10 Tankbuster is designed for close air support, work- ing with ground troops. (CC)			F117 Nighthawk Stealth (CC)		Sex in the 20th Century "Passion's Coming of Age" Roaming '20s (CC)	
57	STW-M	5:45p *** "A Sacred Destroyer" (1984, Fantasy) Amy Sedaris. A young girl's wish for a pet cat may come to have a husband for her mother. (CC)	5:45p *** "Long Life, Happiness and Prosperity" (2003, Comedy-Drama) Sandra Oh, Valerie Tian, Tzi Ma. A girl casts magic spells to find a husband for her mother. (CC)					*** "The Joy Luck Club" (1993, Drama) Tsai Chin, Kies Chin, Lisa Lu. Four Chinese women cope with their Americanized daughters. (CC)			155 *** "The Hot Chick" (2002) Rob Schneider. A cheating wife and a man switch bodies to make merry. (CC)	
58	ADV I	5:30p Death Zone Climbing Zek	Winds Over Malakau Highland cimbbers embark on a Hindu ritual ap- pointment. (CC)	Game for It Sking exposition. (CC)	Desert Friction	Adventure Plane	Racing the Moon: A man attempts to kayak from Brisbane to Sydney before a full cycle of the moon. (CC)	Sure's Journal	Game for It Sking exposition. (CC)	Desert Friction	Adventure Plane	
59	MTV	Road Rules "Ex- treme" Chik (CC)	Road Rules "Ex- treme" Chik (CC)	Direct Effect	TRL (CC)	Making the Video "Mase" Mase	Pimp My Ride Honda Civic	Viva La Bam	Pimp My Ride Chevy Truck	Punk'd: Kevin Fox	Wild Boys	
60	NICK	SpongeBob SquarePants (CC)	Rugrats: Angelica miles Santa cut. (CC)	Scareary Camp	Scareary Camp	Scareary Camp	Scareary Camp	SpongeBob SquarePants (CC)	Invader Zim	Rugrats: Angelica miles Santa cut. (CC)	The Family Dog- Parents (CC)	As Told by Ginger

JAPAN TV

Morning
7:30 Disney (12)
Afternoon
3:12 Grand Sumo: The 13th Day (1)
5:50 News (6)
Evening
6:15 Japan Pro Ball: Yokohama Bay
Hiroshima Carp (42)
7:00 NHK News (1)
7:00 Japan Pro Ball: Yomiuri Gl
Hiroshima Carp (4)
7:00 2004 World Grand Prix Women
Ball: Russia vs. Japan (8)
9:00 U.S. Movie (1995): Twister (1:54)
10:00 News (1)
11:00 Music Access: Rock Odyssey (1)
11:10 British Open Golf (10)/live
12:55 Grand Sumo Digest (1)
2:30 Music Travelogue (3)(r)
3:00 U.S. Movie (1994): Blue Sky (1:54)
3:20 Canal Documentary (6)
4:00 Grand Sumo Digest (1)(r)

JAPAN TV-RS7

Morning
6:00 Top News from Around the World
6:30 Top News from Around the World
7:00 Top News from Around the World
7:30 Top News from Around the World
8:00 MLB: Philadelphia Phillies vs. New York Mets
11:30 MLB: Cleveland Indians vs. Seattle Mariners

Afternoon
2:00 PBS NewsHour
3:00 CNN News
4:00 World News Hour
5:00 CNN News
5:25 ABC News

Evening
6:30 Japan Pro Ball: Hanshin Tigers vs. Chunichi Dragons
10:00 MLB Highlights
10:30 Grand Sumo Digest, 13th Day

11:30 Economic News
11:50 BS Prime Time: World Reports
12:40 2004 Triathlon World Cup Series (2)
2:05 Asian News
3:50 PBS NewsHour
4:40 Asian News
5:00 Top News from Around the World

JAPAN TV-RS1

Morning
8:05 World News Hour
9:30 Aerobics
10:00 Classical Music: NHK Symphony Orchestra Concert
Afternoon
1:00 Grand Sumo Tournament, 13th Day (bilingual after 4 p.m.)
Evening
7:00 NHK News
8:00 Korean Movie (2000): Chunhyang (2:05)
12:00 Classical Music: Koln Triennale Concert

WOWOW

Morning
7:30 TV Series: Friends
9:50 Canadian-U.S. Movie (2002): Bowling for
Columbine (2:07)

Afternoon
12:00 TV Series: Dawson's Creek
1:30 U.S. Movie (1992): City by the Sea (1:50)
4:50 U.S. Movie (1985): Rocky IV (1:34)

Evening
9:40 Stephen King's Kingdom Hospital Ep.
sod 3
11:00 Stephen King's Kingdom Hospital Ep.
sod 3

12:20 TV Series: The Sopranos
1:25 TV Series: Sex and the City
2:10 Canadian-U.S. Movie (1992): Scanners II:
The Takeover (1:40)

MTV

Morning

6:00 Wake Up
7:00 M Size News Thursday
8:00 Top Choice
10:00 Pure Music
11:00 Top Choice
Afternoon
12:00 Classic '90s
1:00 Screen
1:30 Consensus: R. Kelly
2:00 Pure Music
3:00 Top Choice
4:00 New Artist
5:00 Top Choice
Evening
6:00 Guest Friday
7:00 Rocks
8:00 JAMMED: Ludacris
8:30 Hip Headliner: Missy Elliott, 50 Cent
9:00 SUMMER SONIC 4: Performing Artists
Special N.E.R.D.
10:00 Screen
10:30 Movie Special: Shrek 2
11:00 World Chart Express Supported by Honda
1:00 YATAI
2:00 M Size Guest Friday

MT

Mormins

FACES 'N' PLACES

Olympic records

Macy Gray, Lenny Kravitz and Avril Lavigne are among the voices welcoming the Olympics back to Athens, Greece, in three albums recorded to honor the Summer Games.

The albums, titled "Phos," "Unity" and "Harmony," were recorded for the Aug. 13-29 games, record label EMI Greece announced Monday.

"Phos," which means "light" in Greek, features songs by Greek composer Mikis Theodorakis sung by local musicians. "Unity" is made up of international stars, and "Harmony" has classical songs.

"I was excited to be a part of the 'Unity' album, especially right now with the hard times we're having in the U.S. and around the world with the [Iraq] war," Gray said. "I think the Olympic Games is a great opportunity to bring a lot of people together for a positive reason."



Lavigne

O.J. a '90s icon on VH1

O.J. Simpson's slow-speed police chase may be the iconic moment of the 1990s, at least according to the VH1 nostalgia series "I Love the '90s."

The 10-hour program, which started with two installments Monday and runs through Friday, devotes one hour to each year of the decade, chronicling all the pop culture touchstones from Sinead O'Connor to "Beverly Hills, 90210."

Producer Karla Hidalgo said the cornerstone of the era begins in 1994, with Simpson fleeing police before his double-murder arrest.

Since the "I Love the '90s" series, which has also documented the 1970s and 1980s (twice), involves comedians and other pop-culture figures about the past, the producers said they weren't sure they wanted to include the famed double homicide.

"At first we weren't sure how to deal with that," Hidalgo says. "But when we started talking about it with our interviewees, what they remembered was mostly watching it and their initial reaction to it, everything from disbelief to 'Go, O.J., go!'" —not really grasping exactly what had happened."

Master P's hoop dreams fall short

Master P didn't make the cut.

Percy "Master P" Miller, chief executive officer of No Limit Records, was among the players trimmed from the Denver Nuggets' summer league team before practice Monday.

"[Miller] thanked me and was very respectful," summer league coach Scott Brooks told The Denver Post. "I was impressed. I heard some questionable stories about other teams. He worked hard. But he even knew it and said he wasn't in shape."

In 1999, the rapper was waived from the NBA's Toronto Raptors.

It was his second try to reach the pro leagues. The Charlotte Hornets waived him the year before.

Frankenfranks in new name

Franken's radio show, "The O'Franken Factor," is changing its name to "The Al Franken Show."

The new, more typical, show name was chosen over candidates such as "The O'Limbach Factor" and "The O'President Bush Factor," Franken said in a statement Monday.

Franken's daily three-hour show on the liberal talk radio network Air America Radio was dubbed "The O'Franken Factor" in a job at Fox News host Bill O'Reilly.

The 53-year-old comedian said he's changing the name because "no matter how hard we tried, conservative entertainers Bill O'Reilly wouldn't use us."

O'Reilly had no comment Monday.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

Still gotta cut loose

Bacon Brothers a serious band, though Kevin can't turn down demand to 'shake it'

BY JENNIFER FREY

The Washington Post

So the band is into its encore, and has already borrowed a tune from the Rolling Stones, when it comes time for the inevitable. It takes only the first few ripples of the song and the sold-out crowd at the Rams Head Tavern in Annapolis, Md., is whooping with excitement.

"Well, I gotta cut loose..." And there, center stage, is an almost-46-year-old Kevin Bacon, getting jiggy once again with the song that made him a teenage heartthrob back in 1984. His hair is shaggy, his shirt is partly unbuttoned, his hips are swiveling in a pair of truly worn Levi's, and let's face it: The fans love it. So, yeah, this isn't what Bacon had in mind when he and his big brother, Michael, formed the Bacon Brothers, their folk-rock/country/soul band, a decade ago. And it's not what you get for most of the show.

But Bacon long ago succumbed to the inevitable: You can't dance your way around an abandoned warehouse, rocking those hips to a teenage anthem of rebellion, then expect to get away with becoming a musician without throwing in a little "shake it, shake it for me."

Want proof? Up near the stage, a woman can't sit still. She's tapping her feet, she's snapping her fingers, and she looks as though she's having the most fun time she's had all night.

She's Kevin's big sister Elinor.

"Oh, I loved it," she rushes when asked later about "Footloose." "Kevin brought the soundtrack over before the movie came out, and I was listening to the thing on the cassette and I loved it."

She stops, shakes free of her rapture.

"But I love them all," she quickly adds. "I love Michael's 'Don't Lose Me Boy,' which he wrote for his son, and Kevin's songs about his children and his wife..."

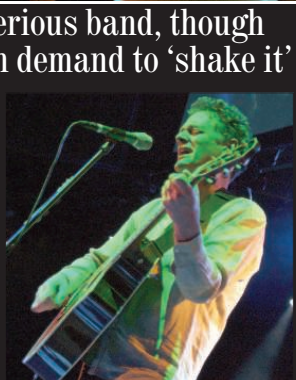
But there it is: Even big sis can't resist the song that first introduced her brother to the big time.

So the band's in the dressing room before show time, with the usual sprawl of buffalo wings and something-or-other dip and a half-eaten burger sitting out on the table, a last-minute hunt for a replacement guitar under way (Kevin's appears to have gone missing). It's the night of a brief, 10-day tour, including Annapolis, Washington and New York.

Bacon is explaining how he just decided to have fun with the whole movie star thing. He knew the critics would be eager to savage him, to paint him as yet another celebrity who thought he could rock. So he decided to poke the beast himself.

"Look, I just figured it was going to come up," Kevin says. "And I didn't want to really pretend that I wasn't an actor. So by playing the song — actually, when we first started playing, I used to talk about being an actor a lot more."

Two boys raised in a household with four sisters in Center City Philadelphia, Kevin and Michael have been tight since childhood, despite the nine-year age difference. Kevin hit Michael in the head with a melody flute when he was just 2 years old. ("It's metal, it's sharp, it hurt," Michael says. "He let it go," Kevin chips in.) Michael first taught Kevin to play the guitar when his little brother was 12.



KRT photos

Top: Kevin Bacon performs during a Bacon Brothers gig at the Key Club in Los Angeles in April. Above: Michael Bacon shares the stage with his more famous brother.

Movie star Kevin and younger brother Michael formed the band a decade ago.

"He showed me how to play a few chords," Kevin says. "Taught me how to play 'Hey Jude.'"

The band came about in 1994, when Kevin was between film projects and he and Michael decided to try their hand at writing some songs together. Again, this, apparently, was a long-standing Bacon boys scheme. Never mind that Kevin was now a movie star, with films such as "A Few Good Men" on his resume and "Apollo 13" on the horizon.

"We'd get together and write songs, and usually with the songs we had some kind of agenda about making a bunch of money," Kevin says. "A get-rich-quick scheme. So we'd write a song about some novelty thing. Roller disco or propolis or safe sex or whatever it was. Then we had this idea it would be easy to write a country song, so we tried to write a country song." But then a friend asked them to play together at a charity event in their hometown, and they hesitantly agreed. From there, they added some more band members, started writing more songs and slowly added some small gigs.

"I think, intuitively, we saw that if we wanted to become successful, we had to do it that way," Michael says of starting out without trying to trade on his brother's celebrity status. "In some ways, though, it is a get-rich-quick scheme, only it hasn't quite happened that way."

Kevin laughs.

"Yeah," he says. "Only we haven't gotten rich and it hasn't been quick."



HEALTH & FITNESS

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Abolition of role reversal in golf's hierarchy

By DOUG FERGUSON
The Associated Press

TROON, Scotland — Despite the U.S. Open titles and a wealth of talent, Ernie Els used to show up for major championships trying to convince himself he could win.

It was a one-sided argument that he usually lost.

"It was difficult for not only myself but for other players to really believe that you can go out there and play your game and think it's going to be good enough," Els said Tuesday at Royal Troon.

That was at the height of Tiger Woods' incomparable run through the majors, when he won seven of 11 major, set scoring records in each Grand Slam event and held all four trophies at the same time.

Els showed up at Royal Troon with high hopes and in a new role — the betting favorite to win the British Open, the first time in a major since the 1997 Masters that the best odds were assigned to someone other than Woods.

And Big Easy didn't need a betting slip to know that.

Els, not Woods, is odds-on favorite in British Open

"Right now it's different," he said. "I feel that when he plays really well, he's going to shoot 67. But if I play well, I can shoot that score, as well. And I can keep doing that for three or four days. I think we're on a more level playing field now, and maybe because Tiger Woods has come back to the field a little bit."

Ladbrokes listed Els as the 7-1 favorite Tuesday, with Woods' right hand at 8-1.

To get an idea how much has changed in two years, consider that Woods was the 4-1 favorite going into Muirfield — not only to win the British Open, but to win the final two majors for the Grand Slam.

"Tiger will be back to his dominance, if not this week, very soon. I'm sure of that," Thomas Bjorn said. "But I just think everybody else sees themselves being able to play to that level."

Maybe that's what gives this British Open a truly "open" feel at Royal Troon.

Phil Mickelson has a green jacket to go with that wry smile, a winner at the Masters for his first major. The only thing that stopped Lefty from the first two legs of the Grand Slam was Rocco Giusti, a smooth South African whose second U.S. Open victory might finally make people aware of his greatness.

"Where Tiger was, and where he is now, I mean we're in different worlds now," Els said. "A lot of the players feel that we can compete with him now at the highest level. He's still playing great golf. He's still not that far off."

Is he still No. 1?

Maybe not after this week.

Els has a chance to replace him last month in the U.S. Open. Two shots out of the lead and playing in the final group, Els made double bogey on the first hole and crashed to an 80.

He gets another chance at Royal Troon, where a victory coupled with Woods finishing 17th or worse would end Woods' run of

257 consecutive weeks — dating to the 1999 PGA Championship — at No. 1 in the world.

"To be No. 1 in this day and age, with this many great players, would be quite something," Els said. "But for me, to win this tournament is more important. To win majors is more important for my career."

Still, Els knows there is a long road ahead of him: Royal Troon, a links known for its tough final nine holes, the tiny "Postage Stamp" green on the 123-yard eighth hole and punting surfaces as pure as any in the British Open.

Mickelson has never finished in the top 10 in a British Open, his weak link in the majors. But he has never prepared so well for the Open, played Royal Troon last Wednesday, on Friday after he missed the cut at Loch Lomond and Monday morning in what probably was his final tunic.

Along the way, he has taken copious notes of where the ball is likely to wind up after traveling

along the humps and bumps of the firm linksland.

"What I've tried to do this week ... is to understand where balls will tend to end up and try to be effective from there to the hole," Mickelson said. "I feel much more confident than I have in the past because I have come in and prepared properly."

He also was prepared for a question about his chief rival, and whether Woods has lost an aura of invincibility.

"Well, that's a tough one to answer," Mickelson said, before deciding to go no further.

All it takes is a couple of bad swings to get in trouble at Troon. And that's what has kept Woods winless in the past eight majors, with only one PGA Tour victory more than halfway through this season.

Woods didn't say his swing was "close" because no one asked him — they have heard the same answer the past three months. But he has looked relaxed all week, not outwardly bothered by going two years without a major, or by the posse of players closing in on his No. 1 ranking.

Congressmen are told sports in U.S. need uniform tests

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Insufficient drug testing in some of America's premier pro sports leagues has led to a world perception that U.S. athletes routinely use illegal performance-enhancing substances, Congress was told Tuesday.

Terry Madden, head of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency, an independent organization that monitors America's Olympic athletes, said some countries balk at signing anti-doping codes because they believe professional athletes in the United States are among the worst violators.

"The perception out there is that we're not a clean country," Madden said. "The National Football League has solid testing, as do baseball, basketball and hockey — need to raise their programs."

Madden and Bill Martin, former head of the U.S. Olympic Committee, told the Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control that uniform testing among amateur and pro athletes are needed.

Such standards would provide "consistent messages to athletes and would greatly simplify enforcement," said Martin, athletic director of the University of Michigan. The Olympics, he said, have a more exhaustive list of banned substances than the NCAA.

Martin and Madden testified for a Senate bill that would ban over-the-counter sales of steroid precursors, which act like steroids in the human body.

The House voted 408-3 last month for a similar bill.

Miami suspends CB Rolle

MIAMI — Miami Hurricanes cornerback Antrel Rolle was suspended indefinitely Tuesday by coach Larry Coker after



Miami senior Antrel Rolle was projected to be among the nation's best cornerbacks this season. He was charged last weekend with battery on a police officer.

being charged this weekend with battery on a police officer.

According to a police complaint, Rolle was involved in a fight in a street near campus early Sunday morning and resisted arrest, cursing and swinging his arms in an attempt to free himself and forcing officers to call for backup.

"We take these accusations very seriously," Coker said in a statement announcing that Rolle had been suspended.

Rolle was released on bond and is scheduled for a court appearance Aug. 2. He was expected to be one of the Hurricanes' top players after deciding in January to return for his senior season.

The Hurricanes open the season Sept. 6 against Florida State.

SALT LAKE CITY gets MLS franchise

SALT LAKE CITY — Major League Soccer made Salt Lake City its newest franchise on Wednesday.

MLS Commissioner Don Garber announced the addition of the team at Rice-Eccles Stadium at the University of Utah, where the team is expected to play its first two seasons. Play will begin there in April 2005.

MLB Trotter agrees to return to Philadelphia

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Former Pro Bowl middle linebacker Jeremiah Trotter returned to the Philadelphia Eagles on Wednesday, agreeing to a one-year contract.

Trotter's deal, believed to be worth less than \$1 million, is contingent upon his passing a physical on Thursday.

Trotter, 27, spent the past two seasons with the Washington Redskins after playing four years for the Eagles. He left Philadelphia following a contract dispute in 2002, but never lived up to the seven-year, \$35 million contract he received from the Redskins.

Trotter's role is uncertain. Mark Simoneau is listed as Philadelphia's starting middle linebacker, with Dhani Jones and Nate Wayne at the other two starting spots.

Trotter led Washington with 129 tackles in 16 games last season. He had 104 tackles in 12 games in 2002, before going down with a knee injury.

Trotter has 774 tackles, 10½ sacks and four forced fumbles in his six-year NFL career.

A third-round draft choice from Stephen F. Austin in 1998, Trotter established himself as one of the premier middle linebackers in the NFL during his time in Philadelphia, going to the Pro Bowl in 2000 and 2001.

He led the Eagles in tackles from 1999-2001, including a career-best 202 in his first season as a starter in 1999. Trotter strongly protested being designated Philadelphia's franchise player after the 2001 season, and signed with the Redskins soon after the Eagles removed the tag, making him an unrestricted free agent.

NFL lines Cooper, Robbins, Stubblefield for THG violation

NEW YORK — Chris Cooper and Barrett Robbins of the Oakland Raiders and free agent Dana Stubblefield have been fined three game checks by the NFL for testing positive for the steroid THG.

They also were placed on "reason-

NFL briefs

able-cause testing" for the rest of their careers, and will be suspended for eight games if they again test positive for any steroid.

The action was the result of an agreement announced Wednesday by the NFL and the players' union that has been pending since last October. Cooper and Stubblefield are defensive linemen, and Robbins is a center.

A fourth player, linebacker Bill Romanowski, also tested positive, although the league didn't identify him. He announced his retirement after last season, and his case is pending.

All four players were with the Raiders at the time they were tested and when THG was identified.

The league said they were the only positive samples in 1,700 retests of every sample taken before last Oct. 6. The league also said there were no positive samples in more than 4,000 tests since that date.

Bucs release DT Russell

TAMPA, Fla. — Defensive tackle Darrell Russell was released by the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Tuesday, four months after the troubled former Pro Bowler signed with the team.

The Bucs had hoped to give Russell, the second overall pick in the 1997 draft, a chance to replicate the success he had before off-field problems derailed his career.

Packers waive DE Reynolds

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Jamal Reynolds was waived Wednesday by the Green Bay Packers, who reacquired his rights after he failed a physical, voiding his trade to the Indianapolis Colts.

The Packers had sent the fourth-year defensive end, the 10th overall pick in the 2001 draft, to the Colts for a future draft pick on July 8.

Reynolds was active for 18 of 48 games during his three seasons in Green Bay, where he recorded just 17 tackles and three sacks.

Angels fire manager Williams, hire Garner

BY JOEL ANDERSON
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — The Houston Astros fired manager Jimmy Williams and replaced him with Phil Garner on Wednesday, a last-ditch effort to rescue a season that started with World Series expectations.

"We needed to make a move quickly," General Manager Gerry Hunsicker said during a news conference. "We needed to jump-start this club right now. We didn't have time to foot around here."

Garner, a former Astros player, is taking over on an interim basis. The team will conduct another search at the end of the season.

"I'm excited. I'm a Houston boy and I'm looking forward to it," Garner, a former manager with Detroit and Milwaukee, told The Associated Press in a phone interview. "We got some boys on the team that I think

can do something really special. This is an opportunity that I've been waiting for."

Williams' job security had been the subject of speculation for about a month, right about the time Houston's surprising slide down the NL Central standings began. He was fired early Wednesday morning during a clubhouse meeting with Hunsicker, owner Drayton McLane and other team officials.

Houston was 44-44 heading into the All-Star break, a remarkable disappointment for a team that was tops in the NL Central for the first six weeks of the season.

The season began with expectations of the club's first World Series appearance in its 42-year history after the offseason acquisitions of former New York Yankees teammates Andy Pettitte and Roger Clemens.

Along with Williams, pitching coach Butch Hooton and hitting coach Harry Spillman were fired. They were replaced

with Jim Hickey and Gary Gaetti, respectively, from Triple-A New Orleans.

The Astros went into the All-Star break losers of six of their final eight games, finishing the first half of the season in fifth place in the NL Central. Houston is 10½ games behind division-leader St. Louis — the first time they've faced a double-digit deficit at the break in 11 seasons.

During pregame introductions for the All-Star Game Tuesday night, a sellout crowd at Minute Maid Park voiced its frustration by booing Williams. Williams doffed his cap, but was clearly embarrassed.

Williams, 60, has guided the Astros to two second-place finishes, losing the divi-

son race last season in the final week.

The Astros made the postseason out of five seasons before his arrival from Boston in November 2001, but have failed to clinch a playoff berth since then.

The Astros have been surprisingly punchless on offense, ranking 19th in the majors in scoring. Their highly touted pitching staff has struggled as both Pettitte and Wade Miller have spent time on the disabled list. And Carlos Beltran hasn't been the quick fix they expected — the All-Star center fielder is hitting .263.

Hunsicker has repeatedly emphasized that the club has loaded up solely for an autumn finish — Beltran is a free agent, Clemens was coaxed out of retirement, Jeff Kent and Craig Biggio are in the final years of their contracts and Jeff Bagwell is nearing the end of his career.

"Time is of the essence here," Hunsicker said. "We can't waste too much time here."

Angels unlikely to acquire Johnson

BY BILL SHAIKIN
Los Angeles Times

HOUSTON — Anaheim Angels owner Arte Moreno all but pulled his team out of the Randy Johnson derby Tuesday, expressing admiration for the five-time Cy Young Award winner but pledging to keep the core of his minor league system intact.

General Manager Bill Stoneman has long insisted that he would not trade his top prospects. Moreno, in his first full season of ownership after a winter in which he spent \$146 million on free agents, said he would not order Stoneman to pursue Johnson, the ace of the Arizona Diamondbacks' staff.

"I won't do that," Moreno said. "That's not the way we'll do business. That won't come from me."

Johnson said Monday he would consider waiving his no-trade clause to join a World Series contender, with the Boston Red Sox, New York Mets, New York Yankees, Chicago White Sox and Chicago Cubs among the suitors. The Los Angeles Dodgers are talking about a trade with Anaheim, but not necessarily to Johnson.

Moreno called the 40-year-old Johnson "a Hall of Fame pitcher and a tremendous pitcher, still," but trading for him this season would add \$16 million to the team's payroll next season. Moreno plans to lower the payroll from \$108 million this year to between \$99 million and \$100 million next year.

Although Johnson would improve the Angels' chances to win this season, Moreno said he does not want to wreck Stoneman's plan to replenish the roster affordably by trading prospects who might become everyday players soon. In exchange for Johnson, the Diamondbacks are believed to



Angels' front office said it prefers to stay away from big-money players like Randy Johnson. Above, in favor of building through its minor league system.

have asked the Angels for at least two of their top three prospects — third baseman Dallas McPherson, first baseman Casey Kotchman and catcher Jeff Mathis.

"One of my commitments is that we are going to build a championship team long term," Moreno said. "I don't think the right way to do that is to give up part of our minor league system."

The Angels do not appear to have a surplus of overwhelming major league talent to persuade the Diamondbacks to trade their franchise player. Reliever Scot Shields is attractive, but reserve outfielder Jeff DaVanon is eligible for salary arbitration next year, and disgruntled reliever Ramon Ortiz carries a \$5.5 million option.

Dodgers General Manager Paul DePodesta declined to comment specifically on Johnson but said recent events had not affected his conversations with Arizona General Manager Joe Garagiola Jr.

"No, not specifically," DePodesta said Tuesday. "I have talked to him recently, but that puts him in a group of about 15 to 20 fans. I've been talking to Joe for a few weeks."

The Diamondbacks, with the worst record in the major leagues, are uncertain about trading Johnson but are interested in trading older veterans, including infielders Roberto Alomar and Steve Hillenbrand and outfielders Danny Bautista and Steve Finley.

This is serious business

BY JIM SALISBURY
The Philadelphia Inquirer

HOUSTON — Kill it. Keep it.

They have now played two All-Star Games that, again, have counted, and the players and Major League Baseball still have a hefty difference of opinion over whether the exhibition contest should continue to determine which league gets home-field advantage in the World Series.

Commissioner Bud Selig says the matter should not be open to negotiation.

Meanwhile, the players, who must approve the concept if it's going to continue next season, basically hate the idea.

"I didn't like it from Day One," said Boston pitcher Curt Schilling. "I don't see why it's so difficult to be like everyone else and let the best record dictate home field."

"Drop it," said New York Yankees outfielder Gary Sheffield. "It doesn't make a whole lot of sense."

Schilling and Sheffield are American Leaguers who, come October, might benefit from Tuesday night's 9-4 victory over the National League. But that's not about to change Schilling's opinion of the current all-star setup.

"Home-field advantage is big," he said. "I'm sure it would be big in a place like Boston. But I still don't think this."

Selig has two big slabs of meat on his plate right now: the relocation of the Montreal Expos and a tougher steroid policy. (It appears as if Pete Rose has slipped off Bud's plate and fallen on the floor. Pete had been hoping the Commish doesn't have a dog.) Once the Expos get their new home and the steroid policy is toughened so that it includes a suspension and public flogging for first-time offenders, Selig must get around to leveling everyone who knows next year's game in Detroit will have a prize attached or not.

First, he must persuade the players association to go for it again.

The union will. Grudgingly. But it will.

We would bet on a two-year extension, through the 2006 season. Not coincidentally, that's how much longer Fox's golden-goose broadcast contract — six years, \$2.5 billion — has to run.

"It's Fox's game and they have a significant voice," Schilling said. "I just don't think people outside the game should dictate something with as much impact as this."

Fox likes the idea of a game that means something, even if there no evidence that players compete with more intensity — something Selig wanted

— or managers like Joe Torre say their No. 1 goal is still to get everyone in the game. That's where this whole thing started in the first place. Two years ago, Torre and Bud Brenly ran out of players in extra innings and the game was declared a tie. Selig took a lot of heat, and it was undeserved because he wasn't the one who ran out of players.

Neither side ran out of players Tuesday night. But Roger Clemens ran out of magic.

This was his All-Star Game, in his hometown. He was Most Valuable Player in 1986, the last time the game was played in Houston.

This time, he was the Least Valuable Player, giving up six runs in the first inning.

Selig made it clear Tuesday that Fox wants this all-star format, and that managers like interleague play. The fans also like interleague play, as attendance figures show. The average attendance for this year's interleague games was 33,000. Regular games have averaged just over 29,000.

"For years, baseball was this dinosaur that didn't care what its customers thought, the fans," Selig said. "Our broadcast partners like this (all-star) arrangement. Our advertisers like it. What am I supposed to do, tell them we don't like it? I'm not doing it. Those days are over in this sport."

Sheffield scoffed. "Bud's looking at popularity," he said. "He's doing a lot of things to get the public appeal. If people say they like it, as much as he's taken, he'll stay with something people like."

Most players hate the concept. Some, like Florida Marlins third baseman Fred Lincecum, are down on the sidelines where in the middle. That's not surprising, considering Lowell's Marlins started Yankee Stadium in the eye in October and defeated the home team and all its pinstriped ghosts to win the World Series in six games.

Under the old format, the NL would have had home-field advantage in the 2002 year's World Series. Hank Blalock's game-winning homer gave home field to the American League.

Lowell didn't want being away from home for the clinching Game 6.

"It's a better story to celebrate at Yankee Stadium rather than the hallowed confines of Pinstriped Park, with all the statues," he said.

Statues? "I think we have one of Dan Marino," Lowell deadpanned.

Still, home-field advantage in the World Series is important.

Schilling's former Arizona team showed it in 2001. The Anaheim Angels showed it in 2002. Both teams won Games 5 and 6 to come within a win.

Will the home field make a difference in this year's World Series?

We'll find out in October.



Most players dislike that home-field advantage in the World Series is decided in the All-Star Game. But it didn't help Mariano Rivera or the New York Yankees last year.

Soriano an MVP in own right after being swapped for one

BY RONALD BLUM

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Now the Texas Rangers can say they traded an MVP for an MVP.

Alfonso Soriano was the other guy in the deal that sent Alex Rodriguez to the New York Yankees last winter. On Tuesday night, Soriano became the star of the All-Star Game, hitting a three-run homer off Roger Clemens in the first inning and earning the Most Valuable Player award in the American League's 9-4 win.

"I feel a little sorry because he's been nice to me all the time," said Soriano, Clemens' former teammate on the Yankees. "Because of the trade, A-Rod and Soriano will be forever linked, their performances compared, a modern day Ted Williams and Joe DiMaggio."

Soriano, a three-time All-Star at age 28, hit .289 with 17 homers and 55 RBIs in the first half, helping the surprising Rangers take a two-game lead in the AL West

after three years of last-place finishes with A-Rod.

Rodriguez, an eight-time All-Star and the 2003 AL MVP, hit .270 for the AL East-leading Yankees with a team-high 22 homers, 58 RBIs and 18 steals — fine numbers, but below the even-higher expectations he created for himself. He was 1-for-3 with an RBI triple Tuesday night.

"I think he's doing his job with the Yankees and I'm doing my job in Texas," Soriano said. "I'm happy for him, but happy for me, too."

Soriano's 343-foot shot off Clemens was his second All-Star homer following a drive off Dodgers closer Eric Gagne two years ago. It sailed over the "This One Counts" banner hanging over the out-of-town scoreboard on the short porch in left field and gave the AL a 6-0 lead.

He followed that with a third-inning single and a fifth-inning strikeout, going 2-for-3. He also made a nice pickup on Sammy Sosa's third-inning grounder to second.

"I've seen him do it for several years," said former Yankees teammate Derek Jeter.

Surrounded by his friends, Soriano felt as if he had won the Bronx.

"I feel tonight, honest, like I'm coming back to play for the Yankees," he said. "Having Joe Torre [as] manager, Jeter at short, [Jason] Giambi at first."

Socks stretched up high and always ready with a big grin, Soriano was a hit with the Yankees. His homer in Game 7 of the 2001 World Series put Clemens in position to win before Arizona rallied in the ninth. But for all of Soriano's neat feats in New York, fans dwelled on his postseason last October, when he hit .206 with one homer, nine RBIs and a record 26 strikeouts in 68 at-bats.

When the opportunity arose in February to acquire Rodriguez, New York pounced and sent Soriano to the Rangers.

"I think it was a great trade for Sor because I think the people in New York lost sight of how inexperienced he is," Torre said. "So I



The Rangers' Alfonso Soriano went 2-for-3 with a three-run homer and was selected the MVP of the All-Star Game on Tuesday in Houston.

think it was an opportunity for him to get out, and he seems to have a smile on his face all the time."

Fans around the nation responded to Soriano's performance this season by giving him the most votes in balloting for the starting lineup, 3.47 million. And he rewarded them, becoming the first top vote-getter to earn the MVP award since fan balloting began in 1970.

He's only the fourth second baseman to win it, following Joe Morgan (1972), Julio Franco (1990) and Roberto Alomar (1998). After receiving the trophy from Commissioner Bud Selig, Soriano went straight to the interview room and beamed as his mother looked on from a front-row seat.

"Everything is for her," he said.

Major League Baseball scoreboard

American League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	55	31	.640	
Boston	48	38	.558	7
Tampa Bay	42	45	.483	13½
Toronto	39	48	.443	17
Baltimore	37	48	.435	17½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	56	38	.598	
Minnesota	49	45	.548	½
Cleveland	42	45	.483	1½
Detroit	42	48	.465	5½
Kansas City	34	56	.378	11½

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	53	37	.570	
Oakland	49	39	.557	2
Anaheim	47	40	.540	2½
Seattle	32	54	.372	17

Tuesday's game

Team	Score	Record
American League 9, National League 4		
All-Star Game		
No games scheduled		

Wednesday's games

Team	Score	Record
N.Y. Yankees (Clemens 9-3) at Detroit (Bonderman 6-5)		
Baltimore (Bedard 3-3) at Tampa Bay (Vazquez 9-5)		
Minnesota (Lohse 3-4) at Kansas City (Greinke 1-6)		
Boston (Lowe 7-8) at Anaheim (Washburn 9-4)		
Cleveland (Sabathia 5-4) at Seattle (Pineiro 4-10)		
Chicago White Sox (Garland 7-6) at Oakland (Harden 3-5)		
Baltimore at Tampa Bay		
Minnesota at Kansas City		
Toronto at Atlanta		
Chicago White Sox at Oakland		
Cleveland at Seattle		
Boston at Anaheim		

National League

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	46	41	.529	GB
Atlanta	45	41	.519	1½
Norfolk	43	43	.500	
New York	36	59	.386	12½

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
St. Louis	47	40	.540	
Chicago	47	41	.534	7½
Cincinnati	40	45	.470	13½
Milwaukee	39	47	.451	16½
Houston	39	47	.451	16½

West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	48	38	.558	
San Francisco	49	40	.551	½
San Diego	47	41	.534	2
Colorado	36	56	.391	12½
Arizona	31	58	.348	18½

Tuesday's game

Team	Score	Record
American League 9, National League 4		
All-Star Game		
No games scheduled		

Wednesday's games

Team	Score	Record
Philadelphia (Muller 11-7) at N.Y. Mets (Trachsel 9-6)		
San Diego (Morris 9-6) at Cincinnati (Garcia 6-1)		
St. Louis (LHerrandez 6-8) at Atlanta (Wright 6-5)		

Milwaukee (D.Davis 9-9) at Chicago Cubs (Prior 2-2)

San Francisco (Williams 8-6) at Colorado (Jennings 8-7)

Los Angeles (Weaver 6-9) at Arizona (Johnson 10-7)

Friday's games

Florida at Chicago Cubs

Florida at Pittsburgh

Philadelphia at N.Y. Mets

St. Louis at Cincinnati

Montreal at Atlanta

San Diego at Houston

San Francisco at Colorado

Los Angeles at Boston

Tuesday

American 9, National 4

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All-Star: Much anticipated battery has little power

ALL-STAR, FROM BACK PAGE

Clemens and Piazza stood a few feet apart before the team picture was taken near the hill in center field at Minute Maid Park, but did not speak to each other.

And while winning pitcher Mark Mulder warmed up with Rodriguez, Clemens started getting ready with a bullpen catcher. Piazza came off and caught just a couple of pitches before leaving the bullpen for pregame introductions.

Before Ramirez hit a two-run homer on an A-2 delivery, Clemens and Piazza took several seconds to agree to what to do.

"We were a little indecisive there," Piazza said.

Piazza applauded, however, when Clemens was honored by Commissioner Bud Selig in a ceremony along the first-base line after the fourth inning.

Piazza said he spoke with Clemens in the trainer's room before the game, going over hitters and discussing some things the catcher described as "personal."

"It was very amicable," Piazza said. "It wasn't awkward."

That said, Piazza never went to the mound while Clemens struggled and sweated. But when Randy Johnson gave up singles to Jason Giambi and Jeter in the third, Piazza walked out to talk with the Big Unit.

Second baseman Jeff Kent



Boston Red Sox outfielder Manny Ramirez hits a two-run homer in the first inning of the All-Star Game in Houston on Tuesday.

didn't help Clemens, his Houston teammate, by making a two-out error on Giambi's grounder in the first. Jeter followed with a single and Soriano homered for a 6-0 lead.

It was the biggest outburst in an All-Star Game since Fred Lynn's grand slam highlighted a seven-run inning for the AL in 1983.

Clemens could only stand there and signal for a new ball, an embarrassed expression on his face. He still got a nice ovation from Astros fans when he struck out Mulder with his final pitch of the evening.

Alex Rodriguez, one of eight players from the first-place Yankees on the AL roster, hit an RBI triple in the fourth.

Ortiz, who replaced Ramirez, homered in the sixth. Boston boppers Ramirez and Ortiz became the first teammates to connect for the AL in an All-Star Game since Cleveland's Al Rosen and Larry Doby in 1954.

"We stayed pretty aggressive," AL manager Joe Torre of the Yankees said.

Jeter finished 3-for-3 after being elected to his first All-Star start. At 7-for-10, the Yankees scored with the highest average of anyone with at least 10 All-Star at-bats.

Sammy Sosa hit a broken-bat RBI single off Mulder in the first inning. Edgar Renteria hit an RBI double and St. Louis teammate Albert Pujols hit a two-run double off C.C. Sabathia to make it 7-4.

Shaq-to-Heat trade is finally a done deal

BY STEVEN WINE

The Associated Press

MIAMI — The Big Diesel has gone coast to coast.

The Lakers and Heat finalized a trade Wednesday sending Shaquille O'Neal to Miami, with the Lakers getting Caron Butler, Lamar Odom, Brian Grant and a first-round draft pick.

The deal, ending O'Neal's eight-year Los Angeles habitation, had been on the verge of completion since Saturday, when he met with Heat President Pat Riley and agreed to the trade. NBA attorneys approved it hours after the league's two-week moratorium on player movement ended.

"Today the Miami Heat took a

great step forward in our continued pursuit of an NBA championship," Riley said in a statement. "We feel that we have traded for the best player in the NBA."

The 7-foot-1, 340-pound O'Neal transforms into a title threat a franchise that has reached the conference finals only once in its 16-year history. The Heat have won one playoff series in the past four years and went 42-40 last season.

"I never imagined that we would acquire Shaquille O'Neal," guard Eddie Jones said. "It's once-in-a-lifetime trying to get a player like this guy. It's an unbelievable, unbelievable move."

O'Neal, 32, is coming off a season in which he averaged a career-low 21.5 points, and he has

missed 15 games each of the past three seasons with foot and leg injuries. But he's an 11-time All-Star with career averages of 27.1 points, 12.1 rebounds and 2.6 blocks, and he's moving to the Eastern Conference, where there's a dearth of dominating centers.

"I've always said that wherever he is, that's where the balance of power is," Indiana Pacers CEO Donnie Walsh said.

The trade marks a return to Florida for O'Neal, who began his NBA career in 1992 with Orlando and still has a home there. He led the Magic to the Finals in 1995, signed with the Lakers as a free agent in 1996 and helped them win three NBA titles.

Days after the Lakers lost this

year's championship series to Detroit, O'Neal demanded to be traded, weary of feuding with Kobe Bryant and feeling disrespected by owner Jerry Buss. He's under contract for \$27.7 million this coming season and \$30.6 million in 2005-06.

The Lakers' most significant acquisition is the versatile Odom, coming off the best season of his five-year NBA career. He and Butler were considered cornerstones in the Heat's recent rebuilding effort, while Grant is a 10-year veteran.

Riley said he was saddened to part with all three players.

"It disheartens me to see them leave," Riley said. "However, you don't get much chances to acquire the best player in the

league, and this was a trade I felt we had to make."

With the departure of three starters, Riley will build his team around O'Neal, Olympian Dwyane Wade and Jones, Miami's leading scorer each of the past four seasons. The Heat will shop for help at both forward positions and backup point guard, and free agents will likely consider Miami a more appealing option with the addition of O'Neal.

"Everybody wants to be here now," said Jones, who played with O'Neal in Los Angeles from 1996 to 1998.

Each player involved in the trade must pass a physical before joining his new team. O'Neal's first appearance in south Florida is expected to be Tuesday, the Heat said.

Clippers deal to clear more salary cap room for Kobe

BY CHRIS SHERIDAN

The Associated Press

When the NBA announced the new salary cap figure for the upcoming season, the Los Angeles Clippers found themselves \$11.6 million below it.

Needing another couple million to offer Kobe Bryant a maximum-salary contract, the Clippers found a way to do so.

The Clippers traded Melvin Ely and Eddie House to the expansion Bobcats for

second-round draft picks in 2005 and 2006, clearing \$2.5 million in cap space. In announcing the deal, Clippers Vice President Elgin Baylor did not mention Bryant specifically but hinted the team was looking at "potential opportunities."

"We began discussions on this transaction in early July, with the goal of creating salary cap flexibility which would allow us to take advantage of any potential opportunities," he said.

Bryant is eligible to receive a starting sal-

ary of almost \$14.2 million, 105 percent of his 2003-04 salary of \$13.5 million.

Spokesmen for the Lakers and Clippers said they had no news to report on what Bryant might do. And with Bryant continuing to maintain a public silence — his agent, Bob Pelinka, said "I'm not commenting to the media at this time" — there was no telling when the 25-year-old might decide where he'll play next season.

Restricted free agents Mehmet Okur of Detroit and Carlos Boozer of Cleveland

signed offer sheets with Utah in the hours after the moratorium expired. The Pistons and Cavaliers have 15 days to match Utah's offer, but neither is expected to be chosen; they don't have enough money under the salary cap.

Also on Wednesday, center Mark Blount re-signed with the Boston Celtics, agreeing to a six-year, \$42 million contract.

And Phoenix signed free agent guard Quentin Richardson to an offer sheet, leaving the Clippers with 15 days to match the \$45 million, six-year offer.

Armstrong gains a few seconds; Frenchman wins on Bastille Day

BY JOHN LEICESTER

The Associated Press

SAINT-FLOUR, France — Seven seconds.

That might not seem much. But in the three-week Tour de France, the advantage Lance Armstrong gained over two rivals Wednesday by sprinting to the finish line of the first mountain stage could be an important step toward the Texan's hoped-for record sixth crown.

At minimum, Armstrong struck a psychological blow by showing that his 32-year-old legs still have enough zip after the Tour's longest stage to outshine Tyler Hamilton and Roberto Heras, former teammates racing to dethrone him.

But Armstrong's main rival, Jan Ullrich, wasn't caught napping. The German, a Tour winner in 1997 and a five-time runner-up, staged with the five-time champion. They finished in the same time.

The glory on Bastille Day went to Frenchman Richard Virenque, who took his seventh stage victory in a dotted career with a courageous solo ride, and French champion Thomas Voeckler, who retained the overall lead.

Armstrong still trails Voeckler by 9 minutes, 35 seconds. The 25-year-old Frenchman displayed his resilience by riding toward the front of the main pack for much of the 147-mile trek

from Limoges and by out-sprinting Armstrong at the finish.

Voeckler placed fifth, Armstrong sixth and Ullrich 15th — the last in a group of 14 riders who finished together 5 minutes and 19 seconds behind Virenque's mark of 6 hours, 24 seconds. Other Armstrong rivals Ivan Basso and Iban Mayo also finished in that bunch.

Armstrong's burst of speed on the uphill finish was to ensure that riders with him didn't open a gap and gain time. In doing so, he left Hamilton and Heras trailing in a second group of 36 riders who finished seven seconds back. If the Tour is close, that time may prove precious. The 101-year-old race's narrowest winning margin remains American Greg Lemond's defeat of Frenchman Laurent Fignon in 1989. Last year, Armstrong beat Ullrich by just 61 seconds.

"Remember Fignon? He lost by eight seconds. It can be important," said Johan Bruyneel, sports director of Armstrong's U.S. Postal Service team.

Overall, Armstrong extended his advantage over Hamilton to 43 seconds and over Heras to 1 minute, 52 seconds. Ullrich preserved his 55-second deficit to Armstrong.

Hamilton's team manager Urs Freuler said the 33-year-old from Marblehead, Mass., was poorly

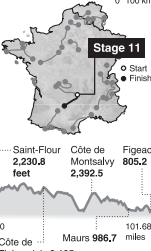
91st TOUR DE FRANCE

Downhill drop

Starting where the last stage finished, this trip from Saint-Flour to Figeac drops 2,729 feet from its highest point to the finish.

Stage 11

Thursday, July 15

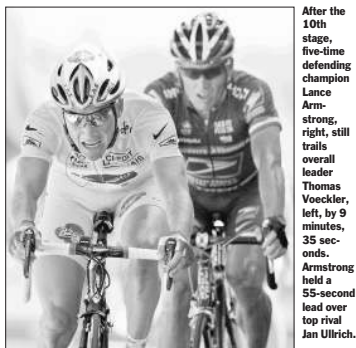


Source: Tour de France

AP

positioned in the final stretch, "which is why a few seconds were lost."

In a taste of their expected battles to come in the harder Pyrenees and Alps, Armstrong



After the 10th stage, five-time defending champion Lance Armstrong, left, by 9 minutes, 35 seconds. Armstrong held a 55-second lead over rival Jan Ullrich.

AP

and Ullrich led the main pack up the hardest of nine climbs Wednesday — a 3.5-mile ascent of Le Puy Mary, in the Massif Central region of central France. While the climb and the stage were the hardest so far, Bruyneel said it was too early to tell whether the Texan is stronger than his challengers.

Armstrong "looked good and sounded good on the radio," Bruyneel said. "It was a hard climb... but still very far from the finish of the race, so we can't really know now who is good and bad."

Armstrong was called for a doping test after the stage and did not talk to reporters.

Meanwhile, Virenque moved closer to his goal: to become the first seven-time winner of the polka-dot jersey as best climber.

Despite his involvement in a 1998 doping scandal, Moroccan-born Virenque is admired for his climbing panache and was cheered by hundreds of thousands of people lining the route. He became the 14th Frenchman since World War II to win on Bastille Day and the first since Laurent Jalabert in 2001.

Virenque dedicated his victory to a friend who died two days earlier and his grandmother who died in June.

See results on Page 26.

Phelps yields spotlight to Crocker, Hall

By PAUL NEWBERRY

The Associated Press

LONG BEACH, Calif. — Michael Phelps sure doesn't look so unbeatable now.

For the second straight day, Phelps touched the wall second at the U.S. Olympic swimming trials — beaten Tuesday by another world-record performance.

Ian Crocker eclipsed his own mark in the 100-meter butterfly to edge Phelps, whose quest to break Mark Spitz's record of seven Olympic gold medals appears more daunting than ever after 17 races over the past week.

"I've never been under that kind of stress in a meet before," Phelps said. "I'm very relieved it's over."

If he thinks this was bad, just wait until the Olympics. Ian Thorpe and the rest of the top swimmers will be waiting, eager to deny Phelps his place in history.

Speaking of Athens, Gary Hall Jr. will be on hand to defend his title as the world's fastest Olympic swimmer after beating rival Jason Lezak in the 50 freestyle. But Brooke Bennett is done, failing to earn a chance to win her third straight gold in the 800 free.

Crocker led at the turn and withstood a challenge coming down the stretch, touching the wall in 50.76 seconds — the sixth world record of the trials. Phelps finished in 51.15, the fourth-fastest time in history but not fast enough.

"I definitely took me out in the first 50," Phelps said. "I was too far behind and couldn't play catch-up."

Aaron Peirson beat Phelps in the 200 backstroke final Monday — also setting a world record. Crocker's time beat the mark of 50.98 he set during last year's world championships in Barcelona.

Hall will be trying to win his second straight gold in the 50 free, having tied Anthony Ervin



Ian Crocker celebrates his world record in the 100-meter butterfly with Michael Phelps in the background at the U.S. Olympic trials. Crocker won with a time of 50.76 and Phelps took second with a time of 51.15.

at Sydney four years ago. Hall equaled the sixth-fastest time in history at 21.91, while Lezak touched second in 22.05.

His rivalry was spurred on by trash-talking and other antics by Hall, Lezak and their representatives. But the two seemed to go along just fine after the 50, shaking hands and exchanging smiles.

"There's nothing between us in the first place," said Lezak, who beat Hall in the 100 free. "We're both here to do a job. I did the job I was looking to do and I'm sure he's happy with what he did."

Ever the showman, Hall climbed atop a starting block and bowed to the cheering crowd. Then, still dripping wet and wearing nothing but his suit, he walked into the stands to hug his wife. Later, he strolled around the deck wearing a stars-and-stripes boxing robe, in keeping with his belief that the 50 is like a heavy-weight fight.

"I just wanted to get to the other end of the pool," Hall said. "Last one there is a rotten egg."

Hall has eight sprinting and relay medals from the past two



Gary Hall poses before winning the 50-meter freestyle at the U.S. Olympic swim trials.

Olympics. He'll have a chance to add to that haul in Athens, becoming part of the first father-son duo to both qualify for three Olympics.

Bennett, who succeeded Janet Evans as the queen of American distance swimming, finished third behind Diana Munz and Kalya Keller in the 800 free to miss a spot on the Olympic team.

Bennett won the 800 at Atlanta and pulled off a 400-800 double at Sydney four years ago. But she hasn't been the same swimmer since undergoing surgery on both shoulders in 2001, struggling just to get out of the preliminaries.

"I gave it a good fight," Bennett said.

Munz, the 400 silver medalist in Sydney, won a great sprint to the wall in 8:26.06, barely edging Keller (8:26.33). Bennett was third at 8:29.39 — her best time since surgery but nearly 10 seconds slower than the winning time in Sydney.

While Phelps became the first U.S. swimmer to qualify in six individual events at the Olympics, the past two days cast serious

doubts on his quest to break Spitz's record, set in the 1972 Munich Games.

Phelps decided on Wednesday to drop the 200-meter backstroke and swim five individual events. He qualified for at least one relay and also wants to swim the other two, which would still give him a chance to surpass Spitz.

"We decided to save the backstroke for another opportunity sometime down the road," Phelps said. "We wanted to do the best program we felt the most confident with."

Crocker established his supremacy in the 100 butterfly with an upset of Phelps in the 2003 world championships. Both swimmers eclipsed Phelps' previous world record on that night — a race that prompted Phelps to put up a picture of Crocker in his bedroom as extra motivation.

It didn't help at the trials, where Phelps swam the last of his 17 races during a grueling, week-long stretch.

"Michael is a phenomenal swimmer and he's trying to do something really special," Crocker said. "He is attracting attention to this sport we haven't had in a long time and it's a healthy thing."

Then again, he's hardly the only swimmer at these trials worth noticing.

Brendan Hansen set two world records in the breaststroke, while Peirson, who can beat the Amanda Beard have as many as Phelps.

"Brendan Hansen, Aaron Peirson and myself deserve similar attention," Crocker said. "I probably have a Maine native laid down a challenge to Phelps, vowing to take the world record even later in Athens."

"I probably have a Maine native laid down a challenge to Phelps, vowing to take the world record even later in Athens."

Margaret Hoeltzer won the 200 backstroke in 2:11.88, benefiting from the absence of American record-holder Natalie Coughlin. She skipped the event to focus on the 100 freestyle and 100 backstroke.

Usually quiet Johnson compares USADA to Gestapo

By BOB BAUM

The Associated Press

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Allen Johnson usually is a quiet champion.

His victories in the 110-meter hurdles have become almost routine, and he has evolved into one of the senior leaders of U.S. track and field.

So his pointed criticism of the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency seemed out of character this week at the U.S. Olympic track and field trials.

"It's almost like USADA is the Gestapo, some Nazi organization that's just out to ban as many athletes as they possibly can," Johnson said. "The doping system that the athletes are under right now, it needs to be fixed."

He feels the suspicion that has fallen on Marion Jones is not right.

"It's not fair to drag somebody through the mud because of who they've fallen in love with," Johnson said, referring to Jones' boyfriend Tim Montgomery. Jones took last year off to have the couple's son.

USADA wants Montgomery and three other track athletes banned from the sport

for life. None of the four has tested positive, but USADA has accused them of doping offenses based on evidence gathered in the criminal probe of the Bay Area Laboratory Cooperative. USADA also has lowered the standard of conviction from "beyond a reasonable doubt" to a "comfortable assurance" by all those on the arbitration panel. The lower standards, however, may not be used in the four pending cases.

Jones, who already has failed to make the team in the 100 meters and competes in the long jump final Thursday night, has not been accused of wrongdoing by USADA. She remains under investigation, despite her vehement denials of ever using banned substances.

"I think USADA should be on the side of the athletes, do more as far as educating the athletes what the rules are, how the rules work, how the whole process works," Johnson said. "I was always under the impression that USADA was an ally of mine. Looking at the way things are going now, USADA is in the business of promoting themselves, and the athletes and everybody else is on the other side."

Reminded that USADA was created to

be an independent body, Johnson said, "You can be independent, but at the same time you can still help the athletes out as far as educating us on how everything works."

Nobody is accusing Johnson of anything beyond running very fast for a long time.

He is a four-time world champion and the 1996 Olympic gold medalist. Eight years after he set the American record of 12.92 — one-hundredths of a second off the world mark — Johnson has the world lead in the 110-meter hurdles in 13.05. In fact, he owns five of the top seven times in the event this year.

The other two belong to Chinese sensation Liu Xiang, who turns 21 on Thursday. Johnson edged Liu in a photo finish July 2 in Rome.

"I had a bad start, but I recovered in the fifth hurdle. In Athens, everything is possible, even beating Allen Johnson," Liu said at the time.

Johnson, who also has a gold medal from the 1997 1,600-meter relay, is impressed by the young Chinese hurdler.

"I don't see too many flaws in his race technically," Johnson said. "So he's not going to make a mistake. He's almost perfect. That's why he's so difficult to beat."

"I think I'm a little bit quicker. I think I can get out of the blocks a little quicker than he can, but his finish is definitely better than mine."

Before he can worry about Liu, Johnson must finish in the top three in the trials, where his chief rivals are Larry Wade and 2000 Olympic silver medalist Terrence Trammell. Wade beat Johnson last month in the Prefontaine Classic.

Preliminaries in the 110 hurdles are Saturday, with the finals on Sunday.

Four years ago, Johnson was hampered by injuries and knocked down all 10 hurdles in the Olympic final. He has been thinking about Athens ever since, returning to win the world championships in 2001 and 2003.

But even though he will be 37 when the Beijing Games come around, Johnson has no use for those who might call this his Olympic farewell.

"This will not be my last hurrah. This will not be my last Olympics," he said. "It's probably my second-to-last, though. I'm still running extremely well. There's still not anybody in the world who can run faster than me. Why quit?"

SPORTS



**Tough U.S. trials run shows
Phelps his quest to surpass
Spitz won't be easy, Page 31**

Rocket lit up at All-Star bash



Texas Rangers' Alfonso Soriano, center, is congratulated by former N.Y. Yankees teammate Derek Jeter, left, after Soriano's three-run homer in the first inning of Tuesday's All-Star Game against Houston Astros pitcher Roger Clemens. In foreground is Seattle Mariners' Ichiro Suzuki. Soriano was the game's MVP.

AL blasts Astros ace en route to 9-4 victory

BY BEN WALKER
The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Roger Clemens was all set for a homecoming bash.

Instead, it turned into an All-Star bust.

Left with a pained look on his face after MVP Alfonso Soriano and Manny Ramirez homered, Clemens was long gone by the time the American League finished off its 9-4 victory over the National League on Tuesday night.

"I put our guys in a hole," Clemens said.

And how. With a sellout crowd at Minute Maid Park cheering for him before the first pitch, and an in-game tribute already scheduled, Clemens gave up a record six runs in the first inning.

The Houston Astros ace certainly couldn't blame his catcher.

Feuding with Mike Piazza for four years, Clemens was forced to work with his nemesis this time. Piazza put down a series of signals and let the six-time Cy Young winner pitch.

"Basically, I just try to roll through it. He stops me at what he wants to throw," Piazza said.

It didn't work too well for Clemens. Because after Muhammad Ali playfully jabbed at Derek Jeter during first-ball festivities,

the slugging really started.

David Ortiz also homered and Jeter got three more hits as the Americans romped to their seventh straight win, not including the infamous tie in 2002. They closed their overall deficit to 40-33-2 and clinched home-field advantage in the World Series for the third year in a row.

Ichiro Suzuki led off the game with a double. Ivan Rodriguez followed with a triple and the rout was on. The Americans reduced the 41-year-old Rocket to a batting practice pitcher, becoming the first team in All-Star history to hit for the cycle in an inning.

Soriano's second All-Star homer was a three-run shot off Clemens, his former teammate. "I feel a little sorry because he's been nice to me all the time," the Texas second baseman said.

Much of the pregame buildup centered on the checkered past between Clemens and Piazza. Clemens beamed the New York Mets catcher in the 2000 regular season at Yankee Stadium, then threw the jagged barrel of a broken bat toward him in the World Series.

Even prior to the first pitch, it was clear their feud was still simmering.

SEE ALL-STAR ON PAGE 29

**Frenchman
a stage winner
on Bastille Day;
Armstrong
holds his
ground as Tour
moves into
mountains**

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**O'Neal era
over in L.A.
as Lakers
pull trigger
on deal
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**Floundering
Astros look
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Clippers up ante in Kobe Bryant sweepstakes Page 30

